Start of Wertheimer Family Trees Collection

AR 11559

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Wertheimer and Valfer families

So you're wondering how this family tree business all began??????????
Seventh grade curriculum in Israel requires the students to do a family roots project, including biographies of parents/grandparents, description of an heirloom, an autobiography, maps of the family's wanderings, and, of course, a family tree. In true Daniella style, she decided that her family tree would be incomplete unless every member of her family on both sides was listed. So……..we all (translation: my mother, especially), went to work. My mom gathered information from Leslie, and made many phone calls for clarifications. Luckily, just as Daniella was about to gather all the names, Benny and Susan came for a visit to Israel, and during their visit to the Diaspora Museum, they purchased the DoroTree program for her. Once all the information was entered, we tried to continue to update/add/change it over the past year. We apologize for any omissions, spelling errors, and any other errors. I'm not sure that any family could have more people named "Heinrich," "Leopold," or "Siegfried," so Daniella sure learned how to spell those names!

While the reunion was being planned we added as much information as my Mom could feed us, and we thought everyone could benefit from Daniella's hard work.
Obviously, the various trees have too many pages to be able to duplicate it for everyone. Also, the trees are somehow not exportable on e-mail. Fortunately, the outlines are much more concise and list everyone according to generation.

written Lisa Leitner
family trees were done by her daughter Daniella

..1 Low Wertheimer; לאו ורטהיימר; 1786 - 1806; תקמ"ו - תקס"ו;
.. *Schune Weyl; שנה וייל; 1791 - 1852; תקנ"א - תרי"ב;
.......2 Hirschel Wertheimer; הרשל ורטהיימר; 1819 - 1879; תק"פ - תרל"ט;
.... *Theresia Liebschulz; תרסיה ליבשולץ;
............3 Heinrich Wertheimer; הנריך ורטהיימר; 1850 - 1925; תר"י - תרפ"ה;
.... *Sophie ?; סופי ?; 1865 - 1916; תרכ"ה - תרע"ו;
..................4 Fanny Wertheimer; פאני ורטהיימר; 1886 - 1942; תרמ"ו;
.... *Max Valfer; מקס ולפר; 1880 - 1942; תר"מ;
........................5 Freya Valfer; פרייה ולפר; 1910 - 2003; תר"ע - תשס"ד;
.... *Ludwig Maier; לודויג מאיר; 1901 - 1953; תרס"א - תשי"ד;
..............................6 Sonja Maier; סוניה מאיר; 1935; תרצ"ה;
*Arnold Geismar; ארנולד גייסמר; 1932; תרצ"ב;
....................................7 Lisa Geismar; ליסה גייסמר; 1962; תשכ"ב;
.... *Aaron Leitner; אהרון לייטנר; 1952; תשי"ג;
....8 Daniella Leitner; דניאלה לייטנר; 1991; תשנ"ב;
....8 Adam Leitner; אדם לייטנר; 1994; תשנ"ה;
....8 Amitan Leitner; עמיתן לייטנר; 2000; תש"ס;
....................................7 Lawrence Geismar; לורנס גייסמר; 1966; תשכ"ו;
.... *Stephanie Weiner; סטפני ווינר; 1962; תשכ"ג;
....8 Ethan Geismar; איתן גייסמר; 1997; תשנ"ח;
....8 Arielle Geismar; אריאל גייסמר; 2001; תשס"א;
..............................6 Lynn Maier; לין מאיר; 1945; תש"ה;
.... *Joseph McCarthy; יוסף מקרתי; 1943; תש"ג;
....................................7 David McCarthy; דויד מקרתי; 1971; תשל"א;
....................................7 Rachel McCarthy; רייצ'ל מקרתי; 1977; תשל"ז;
..............................2nd spouse of Lynn Maier:

*Joel Douglas; יואל דוגלס;
........................5 Else Valfer; אלסה ולפר; 1913 - 1985; - תשמ"ה;
.... *Henry Wertheimer; הנרי ורטהיימר; 1908 - 1964; תרס"ח - תשכ"ד;
..............................6 Fay Wertheimer; פיי ורטהיימר; 1943; תש"ג;
.... *David Sassoon; דויד ששון;
....................................7 Jeremy Sassoon; ג'רמי ששון; 1965; תשכ"ה;
....................................7 Julie Sassoon; ג'ולי ססון; 1966;
.... *Lothar Ohlmeier; לות'ר אולמאיר;
....8 Mia Ohlmeier; מיה אולמאיר; 2004; תשס"ד;
....................................7 Laurence Sassoon; לורנס ששון; 1969; תש"ל;
.... *Monica Junqueira; מוניקה חונקירה;
....8 Leo Sassoon; ליאו ששון; 2004; תשס"ד;
....................................7 Lucy Sassoon; לוסי ששון; 1972; תשל"ב;
..............................6 Leslie Wertheimer; לסלי ורטהיימר; 1947; תש"ח;
.... *Judith Taichner; יהודית טייצ'נר; 1949; תש"ט;
....................................7 Richard Wertheimer; ריצ'רד ורטהיימר; 1973; תשל"ג;
.... *Sally Leventhal; סלי לבנתל;
....................................7 Miriam Wertheimer; מריים ורטהיימר; 1976; תשל"ו;
....................................7 Gabriel Wertheimer; גבריאל ורטהיימר; 1983; תשמ"ד;
........................5 Ruth Valfer; רות ולפר; 1915 - 2003; תרע"ו - תשס"ג;
.... *Rudolph Bergman; רודולף ברגמן; 1911 - 1971; תרע"ב - תשל"א;
..............................6 Andrew Bergman; אנדרו ברגמן; 1945; תש"ה;
.... *Louise Fay; לואיס פיי;
....................................7 Jacob Bergman; יעקב ברגמן; 1978; תשל"ט;
....................................7 Teddy Bergman; טדי ברגמן; 1980; תש"ם;
..............................6 Doris Bergman; דוריס ברגמן; 1940; ת"ש;
........................5 Karl Valfer; קרל ולפר; 1908 - 1973; תרס"ט - תשל"ג;
.... *Trude Jacobs; טרודה ג'יקובס; 1913; תרע"ג;
..............................6 Joyce Valfer; ג'ויס ולפר; 1943; תש"ג;
.... *George Krieger; ג'ורג' קריגר;
....................................7 Daniel Krieger; דניאל קריגר; 1969; תש"ל;
.... *Lisa Wolf; ליסה וולף; 1969; תשכ"ט;
....8 Evan Krieger; איוון קריגר; 2001; תשס"א;
....8 Kyle David Krieger; קייל דוד קריגר; 2004; תשס"ד;
....................................7 David Krieger; דויד קריגר; 1972; תשל"ב;
..............................6 Steven Valfer; סטיבן ולפר; 1945; תש"ו;
.... *Beverly ?; בברלי ?;
....................................7 Reid Valfer; רייד ולפר; 1972; תשל"ג;
.... *Dana ?; דיינה ?;
....8 Cole Valfer; קול ולפר; 2001; תשס"א;
....8 Blake Valfer; בלייק ולפר; 2003; תשס"ג;
....................................7 Regan Valfer; ריגן ולפר; 1975; תשל"ו;
..............................6 Fern Valfer; פרן ולפר; 1950; תש"י;
.... *Kenneth Ehrensaft; קנת' ארנספט;
....................................7 Jacob Ehrensaft; יעקב ארנספט; 1978; תשל"ח;
........................5 Hugo Valfer; הוגו ולפר; 1909 - 1948; - תש"ח;
.... *Ilse Wertheimer; אילסה ורטהיימר; 1919; תר"פ;
..............................6 Linda Valfer; לינדה ולפר;
.... *Stephen Kaplan; סטיבן קפלן; 1941; תש"ב;
....................................7 Elise Kaplan; אליס קפלן; 1967; תשכ"ז;
.... *Jeffrey Cohen; ג'פרי כהן; 1968; תשכ"ח;
....8 Tirtza Cohen; תרצה כהן; 1993; תשנ"ג;

8 Kayla Cohen; קיילה כהן; 1995; תשנ"ה;
8 Feivel Cohen; פייבל כהן; 1996; תשנ"ו;
8 Isaschar Cohen; יששכר כהן; 1998; תשנ"ח;
8 Gilad Cohen; גלעד כהן; 2005; תשס"ה;
7 Julie Kaplan; ג'ולי קפלן; 1970; תש"ל;
*Henry Schifrin; הנרי שיפרין;
8 Josephina Schifrin; ג'וספינה שיפרין; 2000; תש"ס;
8 Ezra Schifrin; עזרה שיפרין; 2004; תשס"ד;
7 Margo Kaplan; מרגו קפלן; 1975; תשל"ה;
*Jeremy Gill; גיל;
5 Erich Valfer; [illegible]; [illegible];
*Ruth Mayer; רות מאיר; 1927; תרפ"ח;
6 Michael Valfer; מיכאל ולפר; 1946; תש"ו;
*Rivka Efrat; ריבקה אפרת; 1949; תש"ט;
7 Eran Valfer; ערן ולפר; 1971; תשל"א;
*Lilach Pearl; לילך פרל;
8 Ma'ayan Valfer; מעיין ולפר; 2001; תשס"א;
8 Itamar Valfer; איתמר ולפר; 2004; תשס"ד;
7 Oded Valfer; עודד ולפר; 1973; תשל"ד;
*Calanit Dvir; כלנית דביר;
8 Noa Valfer; נועה ולפר; 2003; תשס"ג;
8 Idan Valfer; עידן ולפר; 2004; תשס"ד;
7 Anat Valfer; ענת ולפר; 1978; תשל"ט;
*David Almakais; דויד אלמקיים;
6 David Valfer; דוד ולפר; 1953; תשי"ד;
*Ronit Ben-Uzion; רונית בן עוזיון; 1964; תשכ"ד;
7 Yonatan Valfer; יונתן ולפר; 1993; תשנ"ג;
7 Daniel Valfer; דניאל ולפר; 1996; תשנ"ו;
7 Ofri Valfer; עפרי ולפר; 2000; תש"ס;
4 Theresa (Delz) Wertheimer; תרזה (דלז וורטהיימר); 1890 - 1969; תר"נ - תשכ"ט;
*Adolf Haarburger; אדולף הרבורגר; 1885 - 1970; תרמ"ו - תש"ל;
5 Manfred Haarburger; מנפרד הרבורגר; 1923 - 1992; תרפ"ג - תשנ"ב;
*Eva Novak; אוה נובק; 1935; תרצ"ה;
6 Michelle Haarburger; מישל הרבורגר; 1958; תשי"ח;
*Robert Tatt; רוברט טת; 1958; תשי"ח;
7 Jessica Tatt; ג'סיקה טת; 1988; תשמ"ח;
7 Alysha Tatt; אלישה טת; 1993; תשנ"ד;
6 Martin Haarburger; מרטין הרבורגר; 1959; תשי"ט;
*Julie Harkness; ג'ולי הרקנס; 1961; תשכ"ב;
7 Melissa Haarburger; מליסה הרבורגר; 1982; תשמ"ב;
*Damien ?; ? דימיאן;
8 Tailar ?; ? טאילר; 2004; תשס"ה;
7 Paul Haarburger; פאול הרבורגר; 1984; תשמ"ד;
6 Gregory Haarburger; גרגורי הרבורגר; 1964; תשכ"ד;
*Hillary Griffith; הלרי 'גריפת; 1970; תש"ל;
7 Bianca ?; ? ביאנקה; 1990; תש"נ;
7 Daniel John Haarburger; דניאל ג'ון הרבורגר; 1992; תשנ"ב;
6 Judith Haarburger; יהודית הרבורגר; 1965; תשכ"ה;
*Michael Steven; מיכאל סטיבן;
7 Jake Steven; ג'ייק סטיבן; 1991; תשנ"א;
7 Timothy Steven; טימותי סטיבן; 1992; תשנ"ב;
7 Loren Carmichael; לורן קרמיכאל; 1994; תשנ"ד;
6 Phillip Haarburger; פיליפ הרבורגר; 1968; תשכ"ח;
5 Luise Haarburger; לויז הרבורגר; 1922; תרפ"ב;
*Willie Riegler; ווילי ריגלר; 1931 - 2000; תרצ"א - תש"ס;
6 Eric Riegler; אריק ריגלר; 1959; תש"כ;
*Athicsia (Sia) Lagogiannis; אתיסיה (סיה לגוגיאנים);
7 Nicholas Riegler; ניקולס ריגלר; 1994; תשנ"ד;
7 Isabella Riegler; איסבלה ריגלר; 1997; תשנ"ז;
4 Jeanette (Jenny) Wertheimer; ג'נט (ג'ני וורטהיימר); 1897 - 1979; תרנ"ז - תשל"ט;
*Hugo Heuman; הוגו הוימן; 1885 - 1963; תרמ"ה - תשכ"ג;
5 Sofie Heuman; סופי הוימן; 1925; תרפ"ה;
*Albert Hillman; אלברט הילמן; 1924; תרפ"ד;
6 Robert Hillman; רוברט הילמן; 1959; תשי"ט;
5 Ernst Heuman; ארנסט הוימן; 1923; תרפ"ג;
*Lilo Strauss; לילו שטראוס;
6 Karen Heuman; קרן הוימן; 1956; תשט"ז;
*David Bernson; דויד ברנסון;
7 Melanie Bernson; מלני ברנסון; 1984; תשמ"ד;
7 Nicole Bernson; ניקול ברנסון; 1988; תשמ"ח;
6 Claudia Heuman; קלאודיה הוימן; 1959; תשי"ט;
4 Karolina Wertheimer; קרולינה וורטהיימר; 1899; תרנ"ט;
*Eugen Wertheimer; יוג'ין וורטהיימר;
5 Doris Wertheimer; דורים וורטהיימר; 1929 - 2004; תרפ"ט - תשס"ד;
*Shmuel Ben-Shachar; שמואל בן שחר;
6 Raya Ben-Shachar; ראיה בן שחר;
*Miki Kober; מיקי קובר;
7 Donna Kober; דנה קובר;
7 Roni Kober; רוני קובר;

.................................7 Eyal Kober; אייל קובר;
..........................6 Benny Ben-Shachar; בני בן שחר;
.... *Michal ?; מיכל ? ;
.................................7 Tal Ben-Shachar; טל בן שחר;
.................................7 Arnon Ben-Shachar; ארנון בן שחר;
.................................7 Or Ben-Shachar; אור בן שחר;
..........................6 Galit Ben-Shachar; גלית בן שחר;
.... *Dudi Abadi; דודי עבדי;
.................................7 Omri Abadi; עמרי עבדי;
.................................7 Aya Abadi; איה עבדי;
.................................7 Tamar Abadi; תמר עבדי;
......................5 Stephan Wertheimer; סטפן ורטהיימר; 1926; תרפ"ו;
.... *Yael ?; יעל ? ;
......................2nd spouse of Stephan Wertheimer:

*Miriam Wallach; מריים ולך; - 1989;
..........................6 Irit Wertheimer; עירית ורטהיימר;
.... *Benny Harpaz; בני הרפז;
.................................7 Oren Harpaz; אורן הרפז;
.... *Chedva ?; חדוה ? ;
......................................8 Ido Harpaz; עידו הרפז;
......................................8 Shachar Harpaz; שחר הרפז;
.................................7 Erez Harpaz; ארז הרפז;
.................................7 Tamar Harpaz; תמר הרפז;
..........................2nd spouse of Irit Wertheimer:

*Shmuel Strauss; שמואל שטראוס;
..........................6 Eitan Wertheimer; איתן ורטהיימר;
.... *Ariella ?; אריאלה ? ;
.................................7 Guy Wertheimer; גיא ורטהיימר;
.................................7 Daniel Wertheimer; דניאל ורטהיימר;
.................................7 Maya Wertheimer; מאיה ורטהיימר;
..........................6 Ruti Wertheimer; רותי ורטהיימר;
.... *Amos Pik; עמוס פיק;
.................................7 Vered Pik; ורד פיק;
.................................7 Iris Pik; אירים פיק;
.................................7 Roy Pik; רוי פיק; 1992; תשנ"ב;
..........................6 Yiftach Wertheimer; יפתח ורטהיימר;
......................5 Peter Wertheimer; פיטר ורטהיימר; 1928; תרפ"ח;
.... *Shifra ?; שיפרה ? ;
..........................6 Sam Wertheimer; סם ורטהיימר;
..........................6 Avner Wertheimer; אבנר ורטהיימר;
..................4 Hermann Wertheimer; הרמן ורטהיימר; 1888 - 1973; תרמ"ח - תשל"ג;
.... *Selma Schwab; סלמה שוואב; 1882 - 1969; תרמ"ב - תשכ"ט;
......................5 Herta Wertheimer; הרטה ורטהיימר;
.... *Alfred Bloch; אלפרד בלוך;
..........................6 Marion Bloch; מריאון בלוך; 1948; תש"ח;
.... *David Cherson; דויד שרסון;
.................................7 Shoshana Cherson; שושנה שרסון; 1985; תשמ"ה;
..........................6 Richard Bloch; ריצ'רד בלוך; 1952; תשי"ב;
..........................6 Andrew Bloch; אנדרו בלוך; 1956; תשט"ז;
.... *Kathy Hapes; קטי הפס;
.................................7 Kiera Bloch; קירה בלוך; 1993; תשנ"ג;
.................................7 Evan Bloch; אבן בלוך; 1997; תשנ"ז;
......................5 Margot Wertheimer; מרגוט ורטהיימר;
.... *Jacques Kohn; ג'אק כהן;
..................4 Leopold (Poldi) Wertheimer; ליופולד (פולדי) ורטהיימר; 1891 - 1952; תרנ"א - תשי"ב;
.... *Toni Wertheimer; טוני ורטהיימר; 1893 - 1986; תרנ"ג - תשמ"ו;
......................5 Irene Wertheimer; איירין ורטהיימר; 1923; תרפ"ג;
.... *David Rosen; דויד רוזן; 1923; תרפ"ג;
..........................6 Jeffrey Rosen; ג'פרי רוזן; 1950; תש"י;
.... *Debbie Evans; דבי אוונס;
.................................7 Mark Rosen; מרק רוזן; 1980; תש"מ;
.................................7 Elissa Rosen; אליסה רוזן; 1983; תשמ"ג;
.................................7 Jonathan Rosen; יונתן רוזן;
..........................6 Paul Rosen; פול רוזן; 1955; תשט"ו;
.... *Debbie Schott; דבי שוט;
.................................7 Lauren Rosen; לורן רוזן; 1983; תשמ"ג;
.................................7 Dana Rosen; דיינה רוזן; 1986; תשמ"ו;
..........................6 Faye Rosen; פיי רוזן; 1963; תשכ"ג;
.... *Michael Gerstenfeld; מיכאל גרסטנפלד;
.................................7 Matthew Rosen; מתיו רוזן; 1994; תשנ"ד;
.................................7 Julia Rosen; ג'וליה רוזן; 1997; תשנ"ז;
......................5 Gunther Wertheimer; גונתר ורטהיימר; 1925; תרפ"ה;
.... *Joan Tonkonogy; ג'ון טונקונוגי; 1927; תרפ"ז;
..........................6 Debbie Wertheimer; דבי ורטהיימר; 1951; תשי"א;
.... *James Keogh; ג'יימס קיו;
.................................7 Sara Keogh; שרה קיו;
.... *Jonathan Cooper; ג'ונתן קופר;

..............................7 Joshua Keogh; יהושע קיו;
..............................7 Molly Keogh; מלי קיו;
.........................6 Susan Wertheimer; סוזן וורטהיימר; 1954; תשי"ד;
.... *Alex David; אלכס דוד;
..............................7 Rachel David; רייצ'ל דוד;
..............................7 Toby David; טובי דוד;
..............................7 Mira David; מירה דוד;
.........................6 Samuel Wertheimer; סמואל וורטהיימר; 1959; תשי"ט;
.... *Pamela Rosenthal; פמלה רוזנתל;
..............................7 Noah Wertheimer; נח וורטהיימר;
..............................7 Rebecca Wertheimer; רבקה וורטהיימר;
.........................6 Pelle Wertheimer; פל וורטהיימר; 1962; תשכ"ב;
.... *Joe Greenwald; ג'ו גרינוולד;
..............................7 Jacob Greenwald; ג'יקוב גרינוולד;
..............................7 Eli Greenwald; אלי גרינוולד;
...............4 Siegfried Wertheimer; סיגפריד וורטהיימר; 1895 - 1938;
.... *Alice Zivy; אליס זיווי; 1899 - 1987;
....................5 Yvette Wertheimer; יווט וורטהיימר; 1923; תרפ"ג;
...............2nd spouse of Siegfried Wertheimer:

*Erna Wertheimer; ארנה וורטהיימר;
...............4 Richard Wertheimer; ריצ'רד וורטהיימר; 1893; תרנ"ג - תשמ"ה;
.... *Bertha Wertheimer; ברתה וורטהיימר; 1892;
....................5 Sophia (Pia) Wertheimer; סופיה (פיה) וורטהיימר; 1921; תרפ"א;
.... *Phil Gilbert; פיל גילברט;
.........................6 Vivian Gilbert; ויויאן גילברט; 1953; תשי"ד;
....................5 Hans Wertheimer; הנס וורטהיימר; 1925; תרפ"ה;
.... *Barbara Zeitlin; ברברה זיתלין; 1939; תרצ"ט;
.........................6 Rebecca Wertheimer; רבקה וורטהיימר; 1964; תשכ"ד;
.... *Moshe Kopans; משה קופנס; 1962; תשכ"ב;
..............................7 Itai Kopans; איתי קופנס; 1993; תשנ"ג;
..............................7 Ella Kopans; אלה קופנס; 1996; תשנ"ז;
..............................7 Dan Kopans; דן קופנס; 1999; תשנ"ט;
.........................6 Jonathan Wertheimer; ג'ונתן וורטהיימר; 1966; תשכ"ו;
.........................6 Sarah Wertheimer; שרה וורטהיימר; 1969; תשכ"ט;
.... *Eric Rosand; אריק רוסנד;
..........3 Leopold Wertheimer; ליאופולד וורטהיימר;
..........3 Jeanette Wertheimer; ג'נט וורטהיימר;
..........3 Cardine Wertheimer; קרדין וורטהיימר;
..........3 Pauline Wertheimer; פאולין וורטהיימר;

..1 Heinrich Wertheimer; הנריך ורטהיימר;
.. *Karoline ?; ? קרולין;
.......2 Leopold Wertheimer; ליפולד ורטהיימר; 1877 - 1927; תרל"ח - תרפ"ז;
.... *Augustus Harberer; אוגוסטוס הרברר; 1884 - 1951; תרמ"ד - תשי"א;
............3 Henry Wertheimer; הנרי ורטהיימר; 1908 - 1964; תרס"ח - תשכ"ד;
.... *Else Valfer; אלסה ולפר; 1913 - 1985; - תשמ"ה;
..................4 Fay Wertheimer; פיי ורטהיימר; 1943; תש"ג;
.... *David Sassoon; דויד ששון;
........................5 Jeremy Sassoon; ג'רמי ששון; 1965; תשכ"ה;
........................5 Julie Sassoon; ג'ולי ססון; 1966;
*Lothar Ohlmeier; לות'ר אולמאיר;
..............................6 Mia Ohlmeier; מיה אולמאיר; 2004; תשס"ד;
........................5 Laurence Sassoon; לורנס ששון; 1969; תש"ל;
.... *Monica Junqueira; מוניקה חונקירה;
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........................5 Lucy Sassoon; לוסי ששון; 1972; תשל"ב;
..................4 Leslie Wertheimer; לסלי ורטהיימר; 1947; תש"ח;
.... *Judith Taichner; יהודית טייצ'נר; 1949; תש"ט;
........................5 Richard Wertheimer; ריצ'רד ורטהיימר; 1973; תשל"ג;
.... *Sally Leventhal; סלי לבנתל;
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........................5 Gabriel Wertheimer; גבריאל ורטהיימר; 1983; תשמ"ד;
............3 Leo Wertheimer; ליאו ורטהיימר; 1909 - 1985; תרס"ט;
.... *Carol ?; ? קרול;
............3 Max Wertheimer; מקס ורטהיימר; 1914; תרע"ד;
.... *Beate Auerbacher; בייטה אורבכר;
..................4 Evelyn Wertheimer; אבלין ורטהיימר;
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*Ruth Kaiser; רות קייסר;
.......2 Herman Wertheimer; הרמן ורטהיימר; 1885; תרמ"ה;
.... *Seline Auerbacher; אורבכר;
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.... *Otto Gutmann; אוטו גוטמן; - 1987; - תשמ"ז;
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.... *Susan Grossman; סוזן גרוסמן;
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..................4 Harold Gutmann; הרולד גוטמן;
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........................5 Michelle Gutmann; מישל גוטמן;
........................5 Sara Gutmann; שרה גוטמן;
..................2nd spouse of Harold Gutmann:

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........................5 David Gutmann; דוד גוטמן; 1992; תשנ"ב;
..................4 Hedy Gutmann; הדי גוטמן; 1955; תשט"ו;
.... *Bruce Collins; ברוס קולינס;
........................5 Daniel Collins; דניאל קולינס;
........................5 Hillary Collins; הילרי קולינס;
........................5 Evan Collins; אבן קולינס;
............3 Rita Wertheimer; ריטה ורטהיימר; 1916; תרע"ו;
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........................5 Michael Saul; מיכאל שאול;
........................5 Steven Saul; סטיבן שאול;
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.... *Bessie ?; ? בסי;

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*?; ?;

3 Karl Valfer; קרל ולפר; 1845 - 1908; תר"ה - תרס"ח;

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6 Sonja Maier; סוניה מאיר; 1935; תרצ"ה;

*Arnold Geismar: ארנולד גייסמר: 1932: תרצ"ב:

7 Lisa Geismar; ליסה גייסמר; 1962; תשכ"ב;

*Aaron Leitner; אהרון לייטנר; 1952; תשי"ג;

8 Daniella Leitner; דניאלה לייטנר; 1991; תשנ"ב;

8 Adam Leitner; אדם לייטנר; 1994; תשנ"ה;

8 Amitan Leitner; עמיתן לייטנר; 2000; תש"ס;

7 Lawrence Geismar; לורנס גייסמר; 1966; תשכ"ו;

*Stephanie Weiner; סטפני ויינר; 1962; תשכ"ג;

8 Ethan Geismar; איתן גייסמר; 1997; תשנ"ח;

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*David Sassoon; דויד ששון;

7 Jeremy Sassoon; ג'רמי ששון; 1965; תשכ"ה;

7 Julie Sassoon; ג'ולי ססון; 1966;

*Lothar Ohlmeier; לות'ר אולמאיר;

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7 Richard Wertheimer; ריצ'רד ורטהיימר; 1973; תשל"ג;

*Sally Leventhal; סלי לבנתל;

7 Miriam Wertheimer; מריים ורטהיימר; 1976; תשל"ו;

7 Gabriel Wertheimer; גבריאל ורטהיימר; 1983; תשמ"ד;

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6 Andrew Bergman; אנדרו ברגמן; 1945; תש"ה;

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*George Krieger; ג'ורג' קריגר;

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*Lisa Wolf; ליסה וולף; 1969; תשכ"ט;

8 Evan Krieger; איוון קריגר; 2001; תשס"א;

8 Kyle David Krieger; קייל דוד קריגר; 2004; תשס"ד;

7 David Krieger; דויד קריגר; 1972; תשל"ב;

6 Steven Valfer; סטיבן ולפר; 1945; תש"ו;

*Beverly ?; ? בברלי;

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*Dana ?; ? דיינה;

8 Cole Valfer; קול ולפר; 2001; תשס"א;

8 Blake Valfer; בלייק ולפר; 2003; תשס"ג;

7 Regan Valfer; ריגן ולפר; 1975; תשל"ו;

6 Fern Valfer; פרן ולפר; 1950; תש"י;

*Kenneth Ehrensaft; קנת' ארנספט;

7 Jacob Ehrensaft; יעקב ארנספט; 1978; תשל"ח;

5 Hugo Valfer; הוגו ולפר; 1909 - 1948; - תש"ח;

*Ilse Wertheimer; אילסה ורטהיימר; 1919; תר"פ;

6 Linda Valfer; לינדה ולפר;

*Stephen Kaplan; סטיבן קפלן; 1941; תש"ב;

7 Elise Kaplan; אליס קפלן; 1967; תשכ"ז;

*Jeffrey Cohen; ג'פרי כהן; 1968; תשכ"ח;

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THE WERTHEIMER/VALFER

FAMILY REUNION

AUGUST 2005
PENNSYLVANIA

THE WERTHEIMER/VALFER

FAMILY REUNION

AUGUST 2005
PENNSYLVANIA

DEDICATION

We dedicate this book to those who are not with us today. This project and the reunion of our family is our testament to them.

FOREWORD

No single book can fully document the rich history of this family and the individual experiences of its members. But the stories and photographs featured in these pages represent the combined effort of cousins from across the globe to capture the heart and life of this family…for us and for our future generations to enjoy, remember and honor.

We thank everyone who contributed their ideas, stories, images and remembrances.

The Reunion Book Committee

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks to those who contributed funds for the printing of this book. And special thanks to Curtiss Calleo, who generously volunteered to design the book and to Rachel McCarthy for compilation and editing, without whom we would not have been able to produce this particularly beautiful tribute to our family. Additional thanks to David McCarthy and Doris Bergman for proofing and fact checking assistance and to Fern Valfer for contributing an image of her artwork for the cover.

We also thank Gunther and Joan Wertheimer, the originators of the 1990 reunion, and Stephan Wertheimer for his work in preserving our past in the Kippenheim Synagogue. And, of course, our gratitude to the organizers of the 2005 reunion: Sonja Geismar, Lynn Maier and the rest of the 2005 Reunion Committee, including Ben, Susan and Sam Gutmann, and Stephanie Weiner; Leslie Wertheimer and Michael Valfer for their family history presentations; as well as Jacques and Margot Kohn and their contemporaries who have generously contributed to the Reunion Fund.

Cover: *Effect*, © 2001 by Fern Valfer, fernvalfer@yahoo.com

The following essay (featuring excerpts from John Brunetti's "Echoes of Silent Voices") was written as part of the *Remnants: Past and Present* exhibition at The Open Museum in Israel.

The searing abstractions of Fern Valfer are potent reminders that the panorama of history is in reality the sum of individuals' lives whose experiences leave palpable imprints on future generations. Valfer uses the language of abstraction and gestural mark-making to seemingly find the lost voices of her own family and at the same time lends a voice to all those individuals whose fight against injustice resulted in the ultimate sacrifice. In Valfer's images these voices are neither a whisper nor a shout, but evoke the haunting repetition of an echo, the space within which Valfer's post-war generation seeks to reach back into the depth of the past to know family members whom they may never have met, but whom they nevertheless share a profound bond.

The seemingly spontaneous, distinctive brushstrokes and scraped lines are shaped by the unexpected specificity of her sources–the initials of her family members, resembling blackened convulsing barren trees, which, along with the agitated splintered strokes, are engaged in a constant visual battle to resist disintegration. As such they serve as abstract surrogates for the intense vitality of specific individuals as well as a persistent reminder of the tenacity and resilience of the human spirit.

Book designed by Curtiss Calleo, curtiss@ccalleo.com
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LIFE IN KIPPENHEIM

1900-1936

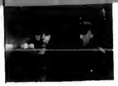
Sophie and Heinrich's children were raised in the Badischen Hof: Fanny born 1886, Herman 1888, Therese 1890, Leopold 1891, Richard 1893, Siegfried 1895, Jeanette 1897, Karolina 1899

1914-1918, World War I

Seated: Karolina (Lina), Therese (Delz), Heinrich (Hershele), Fanny and Jeanette (Jenny) **Back row:** Herman, Richard, Leopold (Poldi) and Siegfried

1916, Poldi Wertheimer

1913, Selma and Siegfried



1936, Lina, Stef, Peter, Doris and Eugen

1936, Gunther, Irene, Toni and Poldi

1936, Sophie, Ernest, Jenny and Hugo Heuman

1936, **Standing:** Fred, Ilse and Felix. **Seated:** Martin and Betty Salomon

1936, Herman, Margot, Herta and Selma

Seline and Hermann

EXODUS

1936-1940

1936, Poldi Wertheimer family, along with Willy and Bertale Schwab, on SS Berengaria

1937, Eugen, Lina and children leave Germany for Palestine

1937, Ruth Valfer leaves Germany

1938, Erich Valfer leaves Germany

1938, Kippenheim Synagogue desecrated during the "Reichskristallnacht"

1938, Heinrich and Else Wertheimer leave Germany

1939, Karl and Trude Valfer leave Germany

1939, Arthur and Rita Maier leave Germany

1939, Kurt, Henry and Ilse leave Germany

1939, Ludwig and Freya Maier (and Sonja), with Bertha Ackerman, embarking St. Louis

1937-1939, Herman Wertheimer family, Richard Wertheimer family and Jenny Heuman family leave Germany

1940, Hermann and Seline Wertheimer arrive in America

October 1940, remaining Kippenheim Jews deported to Gurs and then Auschwitz

NEW LIFE IN A NEW WORLD

1940-1965

Families settle into life in Australia, Israel, England, United States, France

1952, Adolf and Delz Haarburger immigrate to Australia

1961, Cousins

Adolphe Klein, his daughter Frida, Gerard, Jeanette Valfer-Klein, and their other daughter Yvonne Klein

MILES APART, BUT CLOSE AT HEART

1965-2005

1990, Wertheimer Family Reunion in Mohonk, NY

Stef, Gunther and Hans

Erich Valfer family

REVISTING THE PAST, SHAPING THE FUTURE

2003, Opening of the Old Kippenheim Synagogue

2005, Gerard and Evelyne Dreyfus at Holocaust Memorial

2005, Wertheimer Valfer Family Reunion in Pennsylvania

LIFE IN KIPPENHEIM
1900-1936

Left: *Gasthaus zum Badischen Hof, where all the Wertheimer children were born and raised. The first floor had a restaurant and butcher shop, the second floor had a catering hall where festivities were held and the third floor had living quarters. Hershele's father had owned the Gasthaus before Hershele and his son Herman.*

THIS PAGE

Top Left: *Oma Sophie*

Top Right: *Sophie and Heinrich Wertheimer*

Bottom: *Heinrich (Herschele) Wertheimer and his adult children:*
Bottom row: Karolina (Lina) 1899-1964 in Israel; Therese (Delz) 1890-1969 in Australia; Heinrich (Herschele) 1850-1925 in Germany; Fanny 1886-1942 in Auschwitz; Jeanette (Jenny) 1897-1979 in USA
Back row: Herman 1888-1973 in USA; Richard 1893-1958 in USA; Leopold (Poldi) 1891-1953 in USA; Siegfried 1895-1938 in Dachau

OPPOSITE PAGE

Top: *Postcard "Regards from Kippenheim"*

Bottom: *Samuel Wertheimer and Pauline Wertheimer*

THIS PAGE

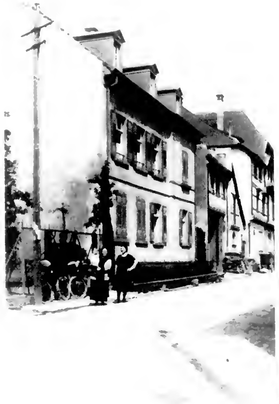
Top Left: *Eugen and Lina House*

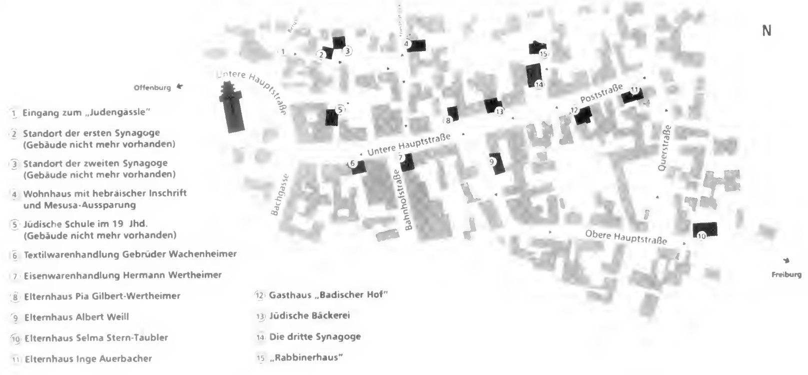
Top Right: *Richard and Bertale House*

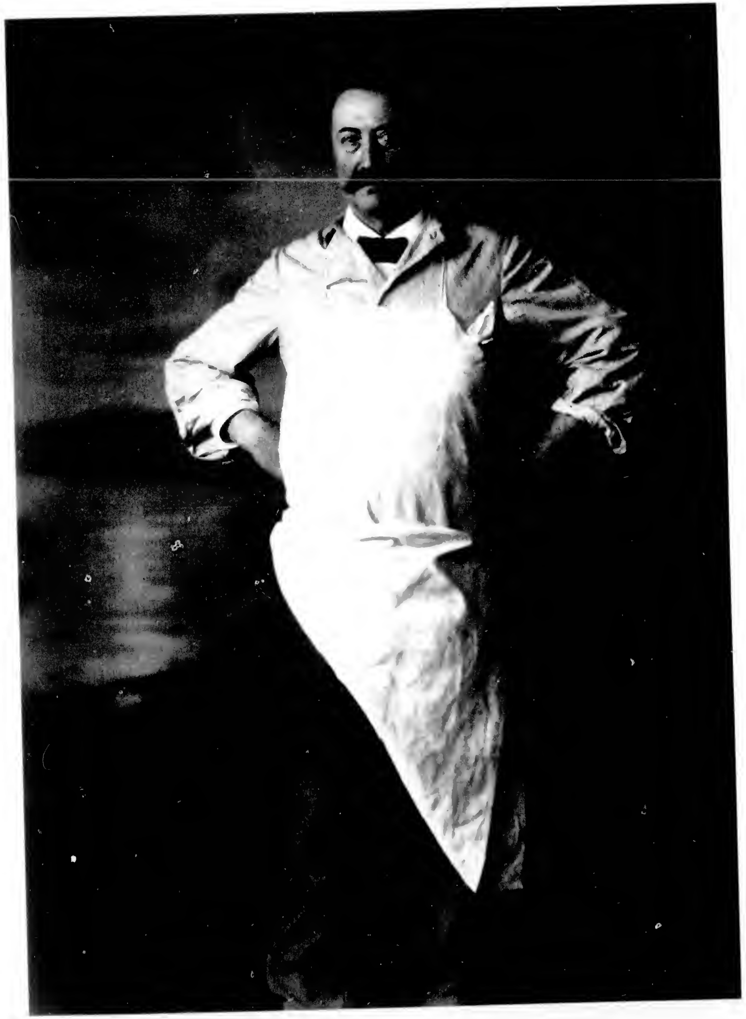
Bottom: *Map of Kippenheim*

OPPOSITE PAGE

Photo mailed to Poldi Wertheimer,
5/9/1915 from Kippenheim during
World War I
from his father Hershele.







THIS PAGE

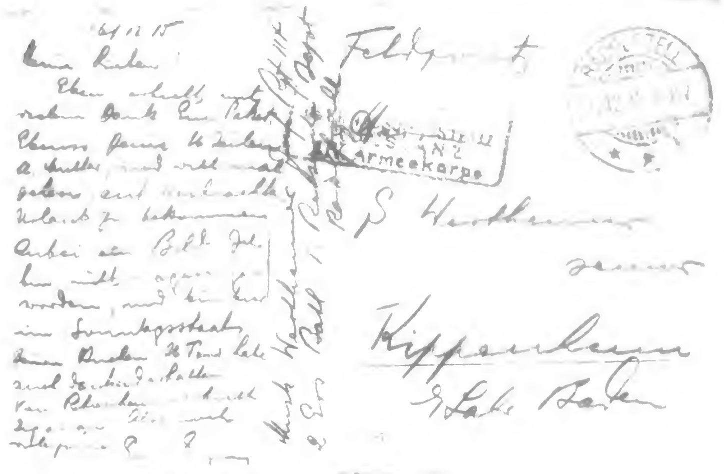
Top: *Poldi, Richard and Herman all in their World War I uniforms, and Kurt and Max.*

Bottom: *Richard sent Poldi (his brother) a postcard from the war, 1 8 1915.*

OPPOSITE PAGE

Top: *From Eugen Wertheimer book about World War I*

Bottom: *Herman (in the front on the left of the sign) and his medical unit. After serving for some time Herman had his appendix removed. He prolonged his stay in the hospital by irritating the wound so it wouldn't heal. He was afraid that he would be sent to the Russian front (and near certain death).*



My dear [ones],
Just received your parcel with thanks. Also your dear lines, dear mother, and some day I will succeed in getting leave for Christmas. Enclosed a picture [photo]. I have not become slimmer and here I am in [my] Sunday outfit. Your cake dear Toni I also received with thanks. From Rhonheimer I received cigars.
So once again regards,
Your Eugen.

2

68·69

Ex libris!

1
Eugen Wertheimer 16.12.15
אויגן ורטהיימר
16.12.15

2
Eugen Wertheimer (rechts)
Eugen Wertheimer (on the right)
אויגן ורטהיימר (מימין)

OPPOSITE PAGE

From Eugen Wertheimer book about World War I

WAR MEMORIES 1914-1918

EUGEN WERTHEIMER WAS a German soldier during World War I. He wrote *War Memories 1914-1918* during his convalescence in 1918. His granddaughter Ruthi Wertheimer stated that his "book was translated so the next generation(s) could read in English, Hebrew, or German about his unusual optimistic way of life during real rough times." Excerpts appear here of his experiences during 1917-1918.

"With a lot of leisure in the Ettlingen Res. field hospital, in the following I want to make an effort to gather what I remember from shortly before and during my second tour at the front and the consequences."

He writes of a long awaited furlough: "At long last at home again, happily greeted on all sides! At once I looked for the nooks and corners in the house, yard and garden that I had come to love from childhood, everything so pleasingly welcoming. I still knew nearly every chicken, but I immediately recognise even trivial changes. There, where once there was a garden (now hen house), where we had baked our cakes with green plums, dusted them with yellow sand, or milk-or-butter rolls which we would sell to our playmates using round flint pebbles for money, when I was still praying with the chickens [going to bed] and said goodnight [early], everything is still here, but knows nothing of the unspeakable misery that the entire world is going through."

He meets his soldier brother Siegfried near the French front: "My feelings which otherwise I was able to control so well, threatened almost to get the better of me, I was quite beside myself for joy! My postcard had after all reached him in time and I could pour out my overflowing heart, filled with foreboding of things to come. We talked like we had never in our lives done before, about our most exalted and holiest things, of our parents and siblings."

The following day the battle begins. "...I drop to my knees and feel the warm blood dripping down my left knee! I gather my utmost willpower and nimbly hurry up the steps, straight into the arms of the furious Frenchman! Three–four hold a pistol to my head, direct me from one end to the other. I explain to them that sitting inside they were all wounded...finally brought me through the German barrage back into the valley to the French battalion shelter. 'Ah voila, un Boche!' And now beginning for me was the hardest time of my life so far! In captivity!"

As a wounded prisoner of war there are long descriptions of his and other soldiers' suffering and pain in the make-shift field hospitals "...they had taken out the piece of shrapnel that had damaged my bone...the wound was completely sewn up again and the leg put into a splint! I ascribe all further consequences to this sewing up!...After about 10 days the high fever had still not let off yet and the doctor indicated to me that it would be best to amputate the leg. Naturally the thought alone caused me a terribly hard mental struggle... a humanitarian doctor who, unlike the others, never let a curse pass his lips...24th September my leg was amputated and to be honest, I was happy to feel a weakening of the unspeakable pains."

Eugen was transferred to a larger facility during the fall and winter of 1917-18. He describes how food and heat were in short supply and relates his experiences with doctors and comrades. In the spring of 1918 a prisoner exchange is finally arranged. The troops arrived in Germany via Switzerland and he was reunited with his parents. He was then transferred to the Ettlingen Hospital where he learned to walk with a false

THIS PAGE

Top Left: *Herman and Selma in Germany*

Top Right: *Herman as a young man*

Bottom: *Herman as a volunteer fire-fighter in Kippenheim*

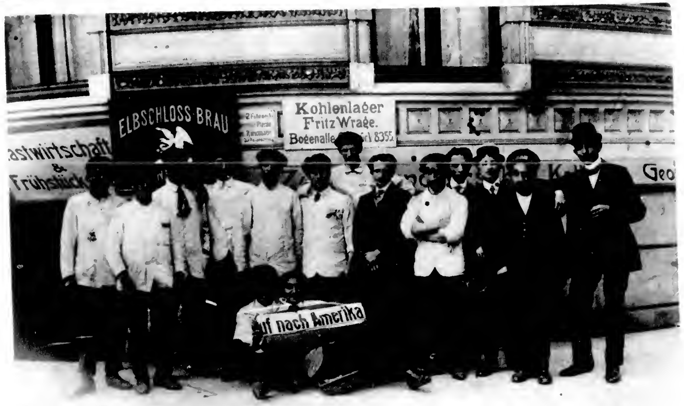
OPPOSITE PAGE

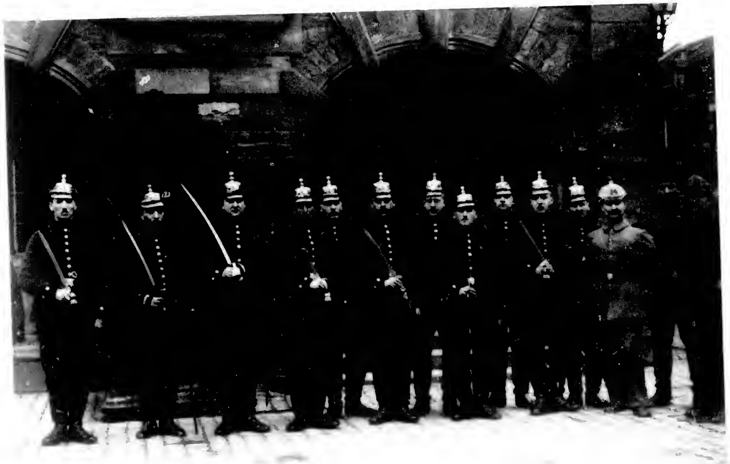
Top: *Herman, sitting in the front holding the sign, and his fellow Master Butchers. He trained for three years before being certified as a fully trained professional.*

Bottom: *Firemen in Kippenheim (volunteers)*

leg. "At the time in the Ettlingen hospital as I was still engaged in writing, the news reached me of my brother Siegfried's death. He had died of influenza in the Schirmeck field hospital in Alsace. This blow struck me in such a way that for years I no longer found that peace of mind which would have been needed to continue keeping these pages accurately."

Submitted by Sonja Geismar





Top Left: *Poldi Wertheimer 1916*

Top Right: *Selma and Siegfried Wertheimer 1918*

Middle Right: *Adolf and Delz Haarburger*

Bottom: *Wertheimer family portrait circa 1923*
Front group, clockwise from left: *Hugo, Ruth, Ilse, Heinrich*
Second row: *Delz, Herschele with Herta on lap, Karolin-Mutter with Pia on lap, Bertale, Fanny with Erich on lap, Rita*
Third row: *Freya, Lina, Seline, Herman, Eisenked, Jenny, Auguste, Leopold with Bruder behind, Emilie in front of them, Sarah, midwife, Theklar Nichte, Zivy-Ramana behind, Karl in front of Zivy-Ramana, Max in front of Karl, Tom, Poldi, with Alice-Irene and Siegfried behind*

FREYA MAIER'S MEMOIRS

Excerpts from Freya Maier's Memoirs About Growing up in Kippenheim. Written in late 1990s or early 2000.

"ISAAC SINGER wrote all his books in his native language. I will try to tell you my children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren a little bit where I grew up. I certainly could express myself much better in German, but then you could hardly read it. I was born 29 May 1910 in Kippenheim (Baden) Germany in a small town. Also my mother and grandmother were born in the same town. My mother was born 24 December 1886 and was the eldest from 8 children and married when she was 20 years old to my father who was born in Diersburg near Offenburg 12 April 1880. He had also 3 sisters and 2 brothers. The parents of my father I never knew; they passed away young so my father had to marry off his sisters before he could marry because this was [what] the brothers did or had to do it if the parents were not alive anymore...

"In the town where I was born were about 50 Jewish families. We had a beautiful synagogue. I was married there. My grandfather had a butcher store and restaurant named "Der Badischen Hof." There were a lot of small towns around but only not many Jewish families lived there. On Purim, Chanukah and Sukkos there was always dancing and theater which we performed ourselves in Kippenheim and all the Jewish people from other towns came. I remember it was always beautiful. We hired a Band from Freiburg. My aunt, my mother's youngest sister Lina, was a piano teacher. My uncle Poldi had a beautiful voice without studying. It was such a nice good atmosphere. Also we made up a show and the hit song was 'all this happens in Kippenheim; in no big city could it be more interesting...'

"My mother was a very beautiful good hearted lady who worked hard; my father was very strict with us but smart. He worked as a bookkeeper but in 1914 he had to go to the war. It was very hard for my mother.... A bomb fell in the stream but our house was damaged–all the windows broke. It took 4 weeks to get glass. We all had to sleep in one room because it was February and an awfully cold winter. The milk on the kitchen table froze even!... We always had food but no coffee, tea, etc. so in the morning we ate soup. Also we had a garden with vegetables and in the summer we had to store fruit, cherries, plums, etc. also string beans, sauerkraut so we had it for the winter. We had no refrigerator; you put this in the cellar–for instance a few hundred pounds of potatoes and apples...

"We all went to grammar school and after 4 years we went to Gymnasium (high school) in Ettenheim. We had to go by bicycle not bus or train. We had to take as a language French for 4 years and 1 year English and Latin. On Saturday we did not ride by bicycle for religious reason. We had to walk. It took me more than one hour to get there. We had on Saturday one-half day of school. I was the only Jewish girl and Leo Wertheimer [was] in my class; all the others were Catholic or Protestant but we got along well, but not always to Leo. He was called the Jewish boy. I liked the school and had a lot of friends. The most were upper class people because we had to pay for the school; but we were always 3 from my family there, so one was free. My father believed very much to get a good Education. He always said what you know on wisdom nobody can take away and in later years it was proven very much..."

Top Left: *Helene, Herta, Kurt, Beate and Gretel all dressed up for Purim.*

Top Right: *Gretel, Herta, Beate, Beate's brother Theo, Irene, Siegbert and the two Auerbacher children in the back row; Hans and Gunther are in the front, 1926.*

Bottom: *First row: Selma and Hermann*
Second row: Rita, Kurt, Henry and Ilse

STORIES FROM HERTA

HERMAN AND SELMA'S house was on the same street as the post office in Kippenheim. One day Erich went to the post office with a bunch of packages that he was pulling in his wagon. He came back and Selma said "give me a ride on your wagon." So Erich said OK and Selma sat in it. Erich started to pull the wagon and Selma fell out of the wagon. Herta nearly fell out of the window laughing. Selma was insulted–Herta should have felt sorry rather than laughing.

THERE WAS A BROOK and the kids loved to play around the brook and jump over it playing Tag. It was Shabbos and Herta had a very pretty (probably new) dress on. Herman said she shouldn't jump over the brook and get it wet. She went outside and Beate said "let's play and jump across." Herta said "oh no I can't do that." Beate said they would be very careful. Herta said OK and of course when Beate said "Gottcha" Herta fell right into the brook. Herta started crying and went in the back door of her house to try to sneak upstairs to change in her room. Herman heard her and said "Herta what are you doing?" She said "oh nothing." He knew that something was up and he went looking for her. That was one of the only times he hit her. The other time was when she fell on the tracks when riding her bicycle when he had told her not to.

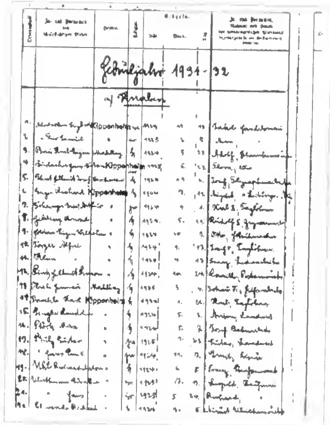
THE NON-JEWISH BUTCHER in town had always shared his cows with Herman, when the Jews were no longer able to work. They would be Kosher slaughtered and then the part of the cow that was Kosher would belong to Herman and the rest to the other man. This continued, surreptitiously even after it was illegal. Someone reported that Herman had meat and the SS arrived at his door. Herta was looking out the second story window as her father yelled at the SS officer to get off his property, while Selma pulled at his arm out of worry and fear. The SS walked away warning him to stop selling meat. It was at that moment that Herman and his family decided they had to leave Germany as fast as they could.

Top Left: *Pia and her brother Hans Wertheimer in Kippenheim, 1928-1929*

Top Right: *Kippenheim Boys School Register, 1931-1932*

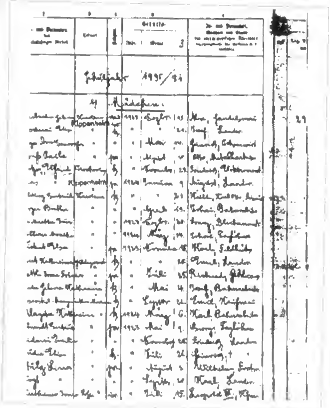
Bottom Left: *2nd Grade Class Outing, 1933. Top row, second from the left is Gunther, and Hans is to his right. Bottom row, fourth from the left is Siegbert Auerbacher and to his right is Hans Durlacher. The second person to his right is Theo Auerbacher.*

Bottom Right: *Kippenheim Girls School Register, 1930-1931*



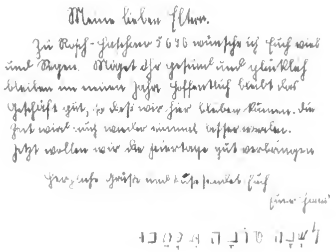
Schuljahr 1931-32

Knaben



Schuljahr 1930/31

Mädchen



Meine lieben Eltern.

Zu Rosch-Haschana 5696 wünsche ich Euch viel
und Segen. Möget Ihr gesund und glücklich
bleiben im neuen Jahr. Hoffentlich bleibt das
Geschäft gut, so daß wir hier bleiben können. Die
Zeit wird auch wieder einmal besser werden.
Jetzt wollen wir die Feiertage gut verbringen

Herzliche Grüße und Küsse sendet Euch

Euer Hans

לשנה טובה תכתבו

Top: *Letter written by Hans, in Kippenheim, in "5696" (1935), to his parents on Rosh HaShana. The Hebrew sentence on the bottom of this letter (otherwise written in old German script) is a sign of things to come.*

Bottom: *Jewish Youth, Kippenheim, 1935*

First row: Unknown, Doris Wertheimer, Unknown

Second Row: Peter Wertheimer, Heinz Maier, Theo Auerbacher, Margot Wertheimer, Stefan Wertheimer, Hans Durlacher, Lore Auerbacher, Elli Auerbacher

Third Row: Betty Auerbacher, Gretel Durlacher, Beate Auerbacher, Irene Wertheimer, Siegbert Auerbacher, Poldi Auerbacher, Hedi Wachenheimer, Gunther Wertheimer, Hans Wertheimer

Last Row: Gottfried Schwab, Herta Wertheimer, Ilse Wertheimer, Pia Wertheimer, Max Wertheimer, Kurt Wertheimer, Erich Valfer

OPPOSITE PAGE

Top Left: *Standing: Fred, Ilse and Felix. Seated: Martin and Betty Salomon, 1936*

Top Right: *Sophie, Ernest, Jenny and Hugo Heuman, 1936*

Second Row Left: *Lina, Stef, Peter, Doris and Eugen, 1936*

Second Row Center: *Herman, Margot, Herta and Selma, 1936*

Second Row Right: *Erna and Siegfried Wertheimer, 1936*

Third Row Left: *Gunther, Irene, Toni and Poldi, 1936*

Third Row Center: *Wedding procession in Kippenheim of Rita and Arthur Maier, 1937*

Bottom: *Valfer family, 1937. Standing: Erich, Karl, Fanny, Freya, Hugo. Seated: Else, Max, Ruth*

THIS PAGE

Top Left: *Erich Valfer at the 1936 Olympics*

Top Right: *Yvonne Klein (second daughter of Jeanne Valfer and Adolphe Klein) and Siegfried Dreyfus*

Bottom: *Else and Henry Wertheimer, circa 1937*

Exodus

1936-1940

Left: *Else and Henry on the top deck above the lifebuoy ring on the boat leaving Hamburg to Rotterdam in 1938*

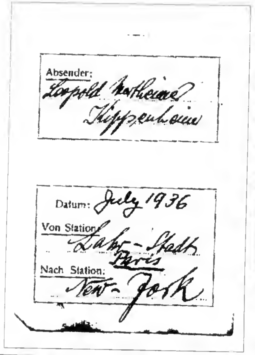
Top Left: *Luggage sticker showing departure (Lahr) and destination (New York via Paris), 1936*

Top Right: *Ruth Valfer (Bergman), far right, on Queen Mary on her way to America*

Middle Left: *The passport is from Jeanne Valfer born in Diersburg (Baden-Germany)*

Bottom Right: *Cover of booklet for Ruth Valfer's Queen Mary voyage beginning April 14, 1937*

Bottom Left: *Picture of Poldi Wertheimer family, with Willy and Bertale Schwab, aboard the SS Berengaria (July 1936) watching a boxing match of crew members.*



THE EXODUS: POLDI WERTHEIMER FAMILY

THE POLDI WERTHEIMER FAMILY was the first to leave the big, close-knit family of relatives, even though everyone believed the times would change and become better again for the Jewish people. So with courage, our family–Poldi, Toni, Irene and Gunther–in July 1936 left Kippenheim.

No one spoke English and all we were permitted to bring was $10.00 per person and at that time we could bring things–so our parents packed up furniture, clothes, linens and all possible things we needed to make a home with.

We arrived in New York City July 21, 1936. We were picked up at pier #56 of the Cunard Line (the ship was the Berengaria) by a cousin of our father, Herman Kahn, who sent the family a visa permitting us to arrive in the United States. The Kahn family lived in Brooklyn, so we got an apartment in Brooklyn also.

Irene and Gunther needed to go to school and since we did not speak English, the school did not know what grade to put these foreign kids in. So, Irene, a tall and skinny child was put into kindergarten, as was Gunther. However we learned English quickly and were skipped all around different grades until somehow we ended up where we should be. Our parents went to night school to learn English. Times were very difficult for our parents making ends meet, plus missing their families still back in Germany. Our father worked very hard at a gasoline station, selling dry goods–anything to make ends meet. Our mother also had a part time job and Irene and Gunther were busy at school.

Soon some more relatives arrived here: Ruth Valfer (Bergman), the Herman Wertheimer family, the Richard Wertheimer family, Jenny Heuman and family, Hermann & Seline Wertheimer and family, etc. Everyone who was lucky enough to arrive here in those earlier years ended up in the New York City area (Washington Heights) and to be together with family was great. These were the years of approximately 1937-1938-1939.

Eugen, Lina and children immigrated to Palestine (Israel) around January 1937. The Salomon family immigrated to Argentina, the Haarburger family ended up in Australia. Henry and Else (Valfer) ended up in Manchester, England. Those early years for all the families were extremely difficult. Our parents did indeed struggle and we can be thankful to be here to tell the stories.

Irene Rosen

THE WERTHEIMER AUSTRALIAN CONNECTION

Manfred Haarburger–son of "Delz" (nee Therese Wertheimer) and Adolf Haarburger–was rescued by the international Red Cross at age 14 (1937) and sent from Germany to England where he was a short time with a Jewish foster family. The relationship did not last long and Manfred found work in a factory.

By 1939 and the outbreak of WWII all German born residents were rounded up and put into detention as they were regarded as "aliens"–even though some (as in Manfred's case) were in England to flee the Nazis because they were Jews.

By 1940 it was decided to extradite these aliens (among them also a number of Italians); they were put on the ship "Dunera"–conditions would not have been fit for animals–and taken to Australia; it was a "horror journey" that lasted 2 months. In Australia too all those who survived were interned again in camps at the edge of the Desert. Life was a bit better there–enough to eat and freedom to play football (important when you are 16 or 17) and have some "cultural" outlets too (a band and theatre group).

In 1944 the internees were given the choice of either remaining in camp or join a work brigade carrying ammunition onto ships at Melbourne Port leaving for New Guinea; there, (in Melbourne) Manfred stayed till the end of the war, when the detainees were given a choice of either remaining in Australia or returning to England or Germany. Most remained in Australia and with the help of the Red Cross Manfred found his family after some months. Luckily they survived–Delz and Adolf were in the Theresienstadt Concentration Camp and sister Luise in several Camps (Auschwitz, Bergen Belsen).

The Family was sponsored by Manfred with the help of the Jewish Community in Melbourne, to come to Australia–Luise and husband Felix Salcman in 1947, Delz and Adolf in 1952. They spent the rest of their remaining years in Melbourne; Delz did visit the U.S. whilst her brother Richard Wertheimer was alive, but I don't know what year; Luise is still alive–84 yrs. of age, quite well physically but very forgetful; I told her about this reunion, but an hour later she has forgotten. She does send her love and best wishes to all the relatives.

Manfred died in Jan. 1992 from a heart attack...he had his [first] one only days before we were to leave for the 1990 family reunion which I attended at his insistence.

We have 5 children–Michelle, Martin, Gregory (who lives in Boulder with wife Hillary and 2 children, Bianca and Daniel, where they have their "Walkabout Studio"), Judy and Philip; some were at the 1990 reunion, but this time only Greg with his children will be attending.

Eva Haarburger

ERICH VALFER

Erich was the youngest out of 6 children of Max and Fanny Valfer. He was born in Kippenheim and brought up there.

He left home only late 1938 to Switzerland and from there to Italy and then with an illegal ship to Israel. Shortly after landing he jumped to the water and found his way to his aunt Lina Wertheimer who cleverly left Germany some years before. Max and Fanny refused to leave and finally when they came to that decision it was already too late.

Shortly after coming to Palestine, Erich began to study chemistry in the Technical Institute. He met our mother and married in February 1943 when being 23 years old. Erich left the Technion after 3 years and began to manage the Coffee shop owned by his father-in-law. He managed the shop successfully for about 55 years and then inherited it to David.

Erich is a very family minded person, a clever and intelligent person, very emotional and keeps very good relations with nearly all the family on very frequent basis. Erich, aged 86, lives in a sheltered home at present with Ruth, his wife.

Michael Valfer

ILSE GUTMANN'S DIARY ENTRY, NOVEMBER 10, 1938

It is Wednesday November 9, 1938, we heard on the radio a Jew killed somebody in Paris. I went to bed thinking what is going to happen? About 2:30 the phone rings, "open up this is the Gestapo." My father put on a pair of pants. 2 men in uniform took my father [who was President of the synagogue] after they ordered him to get the keys to the synagogue to open the safe. After a while the Gestapo brought him back.

About 5:30 in the morning somebody rang the bell, knocked open the door, took my father in his nightgown to the Rathaus [City Hall], which is across the street from us, without explanation.

It was Thursday morning and all the men go to service at 7:30. I jumped on my bike, went to the Betsaal [the chapel] at the back of the Temple where also the Chasan [cantor] lived. It was time for Minyan. I told the men to go home right away. They put my father in jail. As each man walked home slowly and passed the Rathaus, the Nazis arrested them. They couldn't go home.

About 8 a.m. they brought my father home to put on a pair of pants and shirt and took him back to jail watching every move.

I quickly picked up all the following: Trude (Karl's wife), Tante Fanny, Else, who had a virus, Tante Emilie, my grandmother, cousin Julius from Laupheim, who was having breakfast, Max Jahn, Alex Berliner, Siegfried from Ihringen, all the salesmen who worked for my father, plus my brothers Heinrich (Henry) and Kurt.

A policeman came and took all the men outside Rathaus. Our big truck was in the front of the Rathaus. Two very old men were allowed to sit on top. All the other men stood one after the other behind. All the men from Altdorf and Schmieheim

Opposite Page: *Else and Henry on the top deck above the lifebuoy ring on the boat leaving Hamburg to Rotterdam in 1938*

and Kippenheim came one after the other, marching. The Hitler Jugend (Hitler Youth) threw dung and rocks at them and at their heads.

Then the Hitler Jugend, who also came from Lahr and all over, started to demolish the synagogue, put it on fire, threw the books and Torahs, whatever they could find, in the water (a little river), which ran through the Village.

The windows in Jewish homes were broken. In front of our business we had all kinds of metal beams and machines with which they broke all the windows, while we women watched behind the curtains in the living rooms wondering how soon they would break the door down and kill us. They tried to break the front door. Doctor Bernhard Weber in his SS uniform yelled "that's enough, now stop!" I think that saved our lives.

The next day the lawyer came from Lahr and went to our father, (wherever they were) and made him sign the sale of the business to the men that were interested. The next day I went to Valfer's house when Link, the worst Nazi who worked in the Post office, came with a bundle of his ties put together like a ball. Tante Fanny yelled "my God, did they kill the men?" His answer was "maybe." You can imagine the feelings we had after his answer.

After 3 weeks the men come home–walking from the train station–unwashed after 3 weeks in Dachau, the concentration camp. Kurt, Henry and I left for England in March 1939. In February 1940, we returned to Kippenheim to file an affidavit on their behalf. Otherwise, my parents could not have emigrated to America.

On Washington's Birthday, 1940, we arrived in Boston by ship. Kurt went to a synagogue to beg for money so we could take a bus to New York. Uncle Richard and Tante Bertale took us in. My parents were able to come to America in May 1940.

NOTES FROM MANCHESTER ENGLAND

Heinrich Wertheimer's & Else Valfer's wedding on February 6th, 1938 was the last to be solemnised in Kippenheim's synagogue. The couple remained in their hometown till March 1938 when, with help of London-based Simon Weil they left for England–intended as a pit-stop before New York. Minus a host of belongings lost in transit in Rotterdam, they arrived in Manchester where the Jewish community had secured them jobs as a home help and warehouseman.

The outbreak of war on September 3rd, 1939 put a temporary stop to Heinrich's work. He and his fellow refugees, already penalised in Germany for their Judaism, were now enemy aliens in Britain–and therefore taken to internment camps in both Argyll, Scotland and the Isle of Man.

By 1940, it became clear Heinrich's & Else's continued attempts to emigrate to New York would not materialise. Only the flurries of letters to Henry's mother Augusta Wertheimer, their siblings in the US and Israel and to Else's parents Max & Fanny Valfer remaining in Kippenheim, boosted the isolated newlyweds' morale.

Then news came of Else's parents deportation on October 22nd, 1940 to Gurs in France.* By now Henry was free to work. He commuted daily by train and bus to Manchester from Buxton, Derbyshire; Else worked at the local milliners store and painted glassware for extra cash. But all the time, the Valfer children collaborated frantically on ways of saving Max & Fanny. The most feasible was for Henry to obtain them UK visas and for them to reach England via neutral Portugal. Anything was worth trying.

On May 28th 1942, Henry sent his in-laws 2,000 francs for UK visas through the Friends Service Council in London (the Quakers)–whose administration costs amounted to £11.11.6 pence–about $19!

But the Valfers, having been moved from Gurs to camps in Milles and Drancy, ended up somehow in Marseilles. Their card dated 21st August, 1942 from Marseilles' Hotel Levant implied neither the money nor the visas had ever reached them. In October, 1942 Max and Fanny Valfer were handed over to the Germans by the Vichy government. The guileless parents of six left for Auschwitz where they presumably met their fates shortly after their arrival.

In 1945, Henry, Else and Fay, aged 2, moved back to Manchester where Leslie was born in 1947. Charismatic Henry opened a successful wholesale textile business, paid regular visits to his mother and brothers in New York, tended his father Leopold's grave in Schmieheim and was highly respected locally for his communal activities. In 1964, aged 55, he died of cancer the day after Pesach and just four months after Fay's wedding to David Sassoon.

In constant contact with her siblings Freya, Ruth, Erich & Karl, artistic Else often met up with them in Europe and New York. She also retained strong links with former German classmates. An MS sufferer since the early 1950s', she died aged 71 on Fay's birthday in 1985.

As the UK outposts for Kippenheim's Wertheimers, Leslie and Fay may have benefitted in terms of independence but they, Judy, their seven children and two grandchildren have definitely lost out in terms of family history and ties. This reunion is a great chance to fill in some of the gaps.

* Max & Fanny Valfer's tragic departure from Kippenheim on October 22nd, 1940 is chronicled in photos on permanent display in the foyer of Kippenheim's restored synagogue. Visiting it some 60 years later in November 2001 cousins Lynn Maier and Leslie Wertheimer sensed the possibility their grandparents might be the people depicted loading cases onto the Gurs-bound truck. This hunch was later verified by Freya Maier, who had identified her parents and their luggage years beforehand to Kippenheim's pro-Jewish activist Robert Krais.

For Leslie, this unexpected and unnerving experience compounded emotions previously

Henry with Fay, Max and Else Wertheimer, 1944

evoked on reading Ruth Bergman's translations of her parents' pitiful letters written during their two years in France.

He swung into action to ensure his grandparents' names be inscribed amidst those of 76,000 French-Jewish nationals and foreign detainees listed on Paris' Murs des Noms. This was opened by Eric de Rothschild on January 23rd, 2005 in a sobering yet reassuring ceremony attended by Fay. Sixty-three years on, the lives of Max & Fanny Valfer were finally being acknowledged.

Leslie & Fay Wertheimer

THE LEGACY OF THE ST. LOUIS

ONE OF THE MOST DRAMATIC events depicting U.S. policy toward Jewish refugees fleeing Europe prior to World War II was the plight of the passengers of the ship, the St. Louis. My mother, father and sister (as well as other relatives) were on that fateful journey in May, 1939.

Growing up I remember seeing pictures of my parents and other relatives embarking on the St. Louis in Hamburg–I can only imagine their thoughts. They were searching for freedom; they had already remained in Germany too long–waiting for visas and for their turn to leave. They knew that every day in Germany could mean the end.

During this period, Hitler was permitting the Jews to leave Germany, but many countries had quotas and the process to leave was excruciatingly slow. It was a long wait to get visas from various countries; many people had to buy their way out of Germany and into another country. Although my parents wanted to go to the U.S., they could not do so; instead, the plan was to go to Cuba and wait for a period of time until they could eventually enter the U.S. The St. Louis was to leave Germany and land in Cuba–my parents knew they were among the fortunate to be able to leave.

My mother, Freya Maier, born May 29, 1910, was the oldest female of the six children born to Fanny and Max Valfer. Her five brothers and sisters had already fled Germany to England, Israel and the United States. She did not know then that she would be the last one of that immediate family to leave Germany alive. Her parents, the grandparents I would never know, would subsequently perish in Auschwitz.

There have been many books and movies depicting the journey of the St. Louis. The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum has documents and exhibits which give the historical perspective of these events. Simply put, after leaving Hamburg, Germany, my parents and sister were on the boat for more than five long and uncertain weeks.

Upon arriving in Cuba, the 937 passengers were told that they could not disembark and that the "visas" were improperly granted by the prior Cuban authorities.[1] In effect, the people of the St. Louis had been issued their death warrant. After efforts to work with the new Cuban government to change their position failed, the Captain of the St. Louis valiantly tried to have the boat land in the U.S.

Captain Gustav Schroeder deliberately placed the boat just outside of U.S. waters for three days, from June 3-June 6, 1939. The passengers were able to see the Florida shore from the boat. There were articles in the *New York Times* and other newspapers about the St. Louis. Leaders of various Jewish organizations attempted to help. Nothing worked. The boat continued to remain outside the waters of Florida, waiting for President Roosevelt to make an exception to his immigration policy–the "quotas" which prevented the fleeing refugees from being granted asylum in the U.S. President Roosevelt did not relent; he would not allow the boat to land in U.S. waters.

The Captain of the St. Louis told his passengers that he would not bring the boat back to Germany. Captain Schroeder telegraphed other countries in North, Central and South America–to no avail. No one wanted the Jews.[2]

It is hard to imagine the panic and despair of the passengers of the St. Louis who were now returning to Europe. Captain Schroeder did fulfill his promise not to return the ship to Germany. Finally, there were four countries willing to take the refugees–Belgium, Holland, France and England. My family was fortunate–they arrived in Southampton, England on June 21, 1939. Others were not so lucky; of the 619 who were sent to France, Holland or Belgium, approximately 260 subsequently were murdered by the Nazis.

My parents and sister stayed in England one year and then left England in 1940 to come to the U.S.

As a child growing up, I remember my mother's negative feelings toward the U.S. government. This was hard for me to understand–this was America, the home of the brave and the land of the free. My mother had nothing good to say about President Roosevelt, although in school I was taught that he was a hero to all and the savior of the U.S. during World War II. In effect, growing up there was a huge schism between what I was taught intellectually and what I was taught emotionally about this country and about its values. My mother would always mention the St. Louis; how could she not?

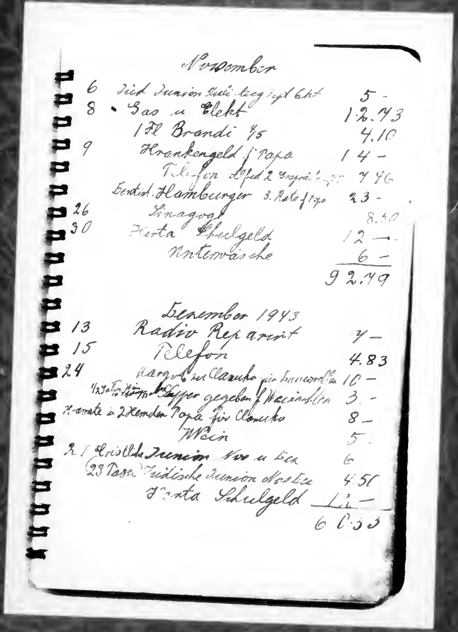
That my sister and I and all our families, are here to celebrate our family's history and to reunite today, is a miracle of sorts. To remember the legacy of the St. Louis, I ask our family to pay tribute to Captain Gustav Schroeder, a righteous German, who risked his life for the welfare of the 937 passengers of the St. Louis and for us.[3]

[1] Twenty-eight (28) passengers were permitted to disembark in Cuba.
[2] The Dominican Republic offered the refugees settlement in a remote area of that country.
[3] Captain Gustav Schroeder was honored posthumously by Yad Veshem as one of the Righteous Among the Nations.

Lynn Maier

Top: *Max and Fanny Valfer getting on the transport on October 20, 1940*

Bottom: *Ludwig and Freya Maier with Bertha Ackerman (aunt of Ludwig) embarking the St. Louis in Hamburg May 13, 1939*


November

6	[illegible]	5 –
8	Gas u Elekt	12.43
	1 Fl Brandi 4/5	4.10
9	Krankengeld f Papa	14 –
	Telefon [illegible]	7.46
	Dentist Hamburger 3. Rate f Papa	23 –
26	Sinagoge	8.50
30	Herta Schulgeld	12 –
	Unterwäsche	6 –
		92.49

Dezember 1943

13	Radio Repariert	4 –
15	Telefon	4.83
24	[illegible]	10 –
	[illegible] gegeben f Weihnachten	3. –
	Kravate u 2 Hemden Papa für Chanuka	8 –
	Wein	5.
	[illegible]	6
	23 Tage Jüdische [illegible]	4.50
	Herta Schulgeld	12 –
		60.33

NEW LIFE IN A NEW WORLD

1940-1965

Left: *November 1943*

Our mother kept expense books. They start out in German and end up in German/English. She also added some things in English to help her "integrate". It is moving to see how they coped with what they had and how they strived to become part of this country. The expenses were mostly in German, which will force some of you to either make a good guess or ask your parents and grand parents to translate. That's what I would call quality time.

Margot W. Kohn

Left: *Trude and Karl Valfer*

Right: *Ruth Valfer and Rudolph Bergman, circa 1939*

TRUDE AND KARL VALFER

KARL AND TRUDE VALFER spent a year in Glasgow before immigrating to the United States in 1940. Karl worked as a radio mechanic while he lived in Scotland. My parents came to the United States with two dollars in their pockets. They lived and worked in Chicago. In1952, they purchased a home in Skokie, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago, where they continued to raise their children Joyce, Steven and Fern.

My mom worked as a chef at the Belden Stratford Hotel. My father repaired TV sets and gradually built up his own successful business in Chicago, Empire Children's Wear. My mom completed all the bookwork for their business. She is a talented classical pianist, culinary artist and devoted parent. My dad, "Pops," was an outgoing, bright, loving parent and a knowledgeable individual with a generous spirit. He thrived here and maintained close relationships with all of our dispersed family members who survived the Holocaust in Germany.

My parents remained deeply in love with each other throughout their marriage. Pops passed away in 1975 but is still in our hearts and thoughts. My mom enjoys her family and friends. She continues to live in the same home that holds positive childhood memories.

Fern Valfer

THE STORY OF HOW JACQUES AND MARGOT MET

FROM JACQUES:

IN 1941, MARGOT with her parents, Selma and Herman Wertheimer, lived at 421 West 118th street in NYC. They had a typical apartment with an additional bedroom, which they could rent to boarders and, thus, have an additional income. Margot's sister, Herta, was forced to work as a "sleep-in-maid" to help out.

I and my brother Jean had left France in December 1940, got stuck in Spain for a month and, thanks to a friend of our father, in Lisbon, got all the visas required to transit through Portugal and board SS Exeter bound for New York.

Upon arrival in Hoboken and reception by the daughter of our father's NY attorney, we were driven to Wards Island to the home of another friend of our father, Dr. Kusch, who worked at the Manhattan State Hospital where we stayed for a couple of weeks.

Searching for a home for us, Mrs. Kusch contacted an old friend of hers, Bertha Schwab and this is how a connection was established with the Wertheimer family. Jean, being the youngest, had priority and was taken to 118th street where, learning that there was a girl living there, promptly asked for another family: the Auerbachers. Needless to say that Jacques replaced him, with the greatest pleasure at the Wertheimers.

In the early morning, after my first night in their home, Margot, naturally curious, knocked at the door to see the face of the 19 year old boy who was their boarder and this is how we met.

FROM MARGOT:

Jacques stayed 3-1/2 months. I turned 15 a few days after his arrival and Jacques turned 20 a few days before his departure for Ecuador.

We corresponded and in one of his letters, Jacques, in April 1943, asked me to marry him. Don't ask me why, but I answered "I have to finish High School first" (maybe I just liked his kindness to my parents and the way he helped us at night with Mom's homework job which consisted of rubber banding and packaging so-called invisible hairnets and as well–thanks to uncle Richard–filling plastic vials for cigarettes filters).

I called Jacques' mother and told her that her son was crazy. Needless to say she agreed with me but since her son insisted, she offered to take me to Ecuador and if I decided not to marry Jacques, she would take me back. That was an offer that was hard to refuse.

I left NY on September 11, 1944. But, since it was wartime, I went as Jacques' father's secretary to avoid restrictions on air travel. Due to priorities, the "Clipper" flight took a total of a week, with a 2 days layover in Jamaica and 4 days in Colombia.

We arrived in Guayaquil, Ecuador on September 18th 1944. As soon as I saw Jacques I knew why I had come but I made the poor guy wait until November 4th as our wedding day because that was the 25th anniversary of his parents. (They lived for us to celebrate our 25th and their 50th anniversaries.)

The wedding took place in the living room of our apartment, in Spanish, with people I hardly knew. At the end of the officiating Mayor's speech, Jacques poked me in the ribs, I said "Si" and we were married. Not quite a dream wedding, but "Hey! You never know."

EXCERPTS FROM INTERVIEW WITH RITA MAIER

THE JOURNEY TO AMERICA started from Kippenheim in April 1939. My husband Arthur went to England and our daughter Susan who was 1 1/2 years old and I followed a few weeks later. Family Simon Weil had sent us the papers to come to England. We lived with a Quaker family in St. Albans. At the end of December 1939 we left England and arrived in New York on January 4, 1940.

Arthur's brothers Leo and Fred picked us up and took us to my sister-in-law, Jula Loeb. When we were there, Fred went out of his room and slept on a couch so that Arthur and I could sleep in his bed and in front of it we put a bench and Susan slept there until we got a crib from cousin Olga Barth for her. We stayed there for three weeks until we found a room in the same building at 1615 University Ave. in the Bronx.

Arthur found a job as a night watchman in the Wagner Building on the Grand Concourse. The next morning when he came to work they told him "I'm sorry the job is taken." He lost his job because he's Jewish and because he was a refugee. He was very disappointed. He found a job working for Fuller Brush.

We moved to a two-bedroom apartment at 667 West 177 St. in Manhattan. We rented out the second bedroom to make the rent cheaper. Furniture we didn't have either, so little by little we bought a couch, slightly used, but unfortunately it itched a little (laughs). Those were very tough times. No jobs were available. The language wasn't too difficult because we had special lessons.

Joan was born in July 1945. In August 1946 we bought a house on Tibbett Avenue in the Bronx. Of course, the reason was that we lived very sparingly–special occasions we didn't know from. Susan had allergies so we couldn't go anywhere. Joan was eight years younger and they shared a room. I still live in the same house.

Top: *Ruth Bergman and Gretel Lambert, circa 1939*

Bottom Left: *Herman with a cigar sitting on the bench by their house on Morningside Heights and 118th Street*

Middle Right: *Vivian Gilbert-Weston (Pia Wertheimer Gilbert's daughter) with her grandmother, Berta Wertheimer, 1957*

Bottom Right: *Freya, Erich and Ruth and during Erich's first visit to U.S., 1948*

THIS PAGE

Top: *Karl, Freya and Ruth (no date)*

Middle Left: *Ruth and Rudolph "Rua" and Bruno and Gretel "Deda" Lambert, October 1962*

Middle Right: *Selma ladling soup, 1958*

Middle Lower Right: *Rosel Werthemer, Willy and Bertha Schwab, Sophie Werthemer*

Bottom Left: *Herman cutting the Berches (challah) in his dining room, 1958*

Bottom Right: *Cousins, August 1961*

OPPOSITE PAGE

Above: *Freya, David and Fay, Ruth and Else in 1963*

Bottom: *Herta and Alfred sitting on the family's favorite bench on Morningside Heights. Alfred is home on furlough after basic training, just before being shipped out to serve in WWII. Herta and Alfred met on December 8th (Ilse's birthday) and Alfred also arrived home from the war on the same date. Herta always said that that date was as important to them as their wedding anniversary.*

RECIPES

Left: *Ruth at work in the kitchen in Forest Hills, October 1973*

RUTH BERGMAN'S BREAST OF VEAL WITH SPINACH STUFFING

(Traditionally served at Passover)

(Use boned leg of veal, have the butcher prepare the veal for stuffing pocket opening on top)
4-5 lbs. of veal, salt and pepper
1/2 tsp. dried thyme
1 1/2 bay leaves
1 tsp. chopped garlic
2 tbsp. olive oil
2/3 cup finely chopped onion
1/2 lb. ground veal
1/2 lb. ground beef
1 cup finely chopped mushrooms
4 cups coarsely chopped spinach
1/2 cup bread crumbs (Passover use Matzo meal)
2 eggs lightly beaten
1/8 tsp. nutmeg
1 tbsp. olive oil
3/4 cup thinly sliced carrots
1/2 cup coarsely chopped carrots
1/2 cup coarsely chopped celery
1 cup coarsely chopped onions
3 sprigs parsley
2 sprigs thyme or 1/2 tsp. dried thyme
1 cup imported peeled tomatoes
1 cup dry white wine
1 clove garlic unpeeled
1 cup chicken broth, or water

Sprinkle the veal inside and outside with salt and pepper.

Chop together on flat surface, half tsp. thyme, half a bay leaf and one tsp. chopped garlic. Set aside.

Heat one tbsp. of olive oil in heavy skillet add the finely chopped onion, cook, stirring until wilted, add the ground veal and beef, cook, break up the lumps of the meats. Add the garlic mixture and the mushrooms and cook, stirring, about 5 minutes. Add the spinach and cook until wilted. Add the bread crumbs and eggs. Add the nutmeg, salt, pepper to taste. Stir to blend well. Let cool.

Meanwhile preheat oven to 375 degrees.

Open up pockets of the veal–fill the pocket with the mixture, sew up the opening. Rub the bottom of baking pan with olive oil. Put the veal in the roasting pan and rub it all over with olive oil–roast for 30 minutes. Add the sliced carrots, celery and onion–continue baking another 30 minutes.

Put the parsley, thyme and bay leaves into a cheese cloth, add this to the veal. Add the tomatoes, wine and garlic. Cover the meat loosely with foil and continue baking about another 30 minutes. Then, reduce the over heat to 350 degrees. Remove the foil and baste. Bake for another 30 minutes.

Total roasting time: 2 1/2 hours.

When ready to serve, add the broth or water to the pan (remove meat first), bring to a boil–discard the bundle of herbs). Put the vegetables in the Cuisinart and put them back in the gravy. Let the meat cool. Slice it and warm water bath and warm the gravy. Separately, add a bit of sugar and a bit more wine to the gravy.

RUTH BERGMAN'S POT ROAST

4 lbs of rump roast or bottom round
1 can tomato paste
1/2 cup of white vinegar
salt and pepper
2 Bay leaves
1/4 cup of flour
2 medium sized onions

Rub salt and pepper into meat, do a light coating of flour. Brown well on all sides on low heat. It takes about 1/2 hour, add tomato paste to vinegar, flour, bay leaves and enough water to cover meat. Simmer slowly, for about three hours.

RUTH BERGMAN'S MATZOH BALLS

(12 Matzoh Balls)

1/2 cup Matzoh meal
2 eggs
1/4 cup water
1/8 tsp. Crisco
1 tsp. salt
1 tbsp. parsley

Cook 15 minutes

EVA HAARBURGER'S MATZO BALLS

(simple)

1 1/2 cup (150 gr.) coarse matzo meal
1/2 tsp. salt
1 1/2 (375 ml.) cup boiling water
1 egg lightly beaten, 1 tbsp. chicken fat or oil

Place matzo and salt in bowl, stir in boiling water, stand at least 10 minutes; stir in egg and chicken fat. (I use my hands as I find the mixture too firm to use with a spoon).

Using wetted hands, shape rounded tbsp. of mixture into balls.

Place matzo balls in pan of boiling water, simmer, uncovered, about 20 minutes, or until tender; drain. Place matzo balls into boiling chicken and vegetable broth.

EVA HAARBURGER'S FOAMY WINESAUCE

(Weinschaumsosse)

4 eggs
250 ml white wine
3 tbsp. sugar
juice of 1/2 lemon
1/2 tsp. cornstarch

Foam eggs with sugar and cornstarch in a pot. Meanwhile heat the wine and stir very gradually into the sauce. Then, add the lemon juice. Whisk the mixture again in the top of a double boiler until light and frothy.

This sauce was always served with an almond or hazelnut cake on special occasions.

Passed down by Delz

EVA HAARBURGER'S LINZERTORTE

(simple)

125 gr. butter or margarine
250 gr. sugar
1 egg
1 tbsp. cinnamon
pinch of ground cloves
grated rind of 1/2 lemon
2 tbsp. Kirschwasser (alcohol!)
125 gr. ground hazelnuts or walnuts
4-5 tbsp. milk
300 gr. flour
1 tsp. baking powder
250 gr. of raspberry jam (or jam of your choice)

Stir butter till light and fluffy, add sugar and egg and beat again (with a wooden spoon), mix in hazelnuts and other ingredients–(NOT the jam!)–knead into pastry; let the pastry stand in a cool spot or fridge to "rest" (at least 1 hr.).

Butter and flour a 26cm (8" springform), roll out 2/3 of dough and cover bottom and a bit of the sides with the dough, spread with jam. Roll out the rest of pastry and cut into strips. Make a lattice work over jam; brush with egg yolk if desired–it gives a "shine" to the finished cake.

Bake approx. 1 hour–slow oven–170 C or 350 F.

This torte should be baked 3-4 days before consuming it. Dust with icing sugar.

Passed down by Delz

FREYA'S HERRING SALAD

Herring Salad was a staple of Freya's birthday annual open house. It was also served to break the fast on Yom Kippur, but without the sour cream and nuts.

10 schmaltz or matjes herring fillets cut up
2 sliced onions (if none are included with fillets)
2 or 3 apples (cut bite-size) MacIntosh or any other preferred type
1 or 2 pickles (sliced very small)
chopped walnuts (to taste)
16 oz. sour cream (don't use all of it)

Pour off most of the marinade and soak herring in water overnight or for a few hours. Pour off water before adding the rest of the ingredients. Add sour cream to taste.

FREYA'S GOETTERSPEISE OR TRIFLE

This dessert was served on festive occasions (Rosh Hoshanah and Pesach). It serves a large group (at least 15 people), is good for summer entertaining and tastes best when eaten within 3 days. The wine sauce can be a dessert on its own served with sponge cake or fruit.

Group 1
4 egg yolks
1 whole egg
10 heaping tbsp. sugar
1 and 1/2 tbsp. flour
or potato starch (Pesach)

Group 2
2 and 1/2 cups white wine (your favorite type)
1/2 cup water (optional)
juice of one lemon

Group 3
1 and 1/2 pounds of plain sponge cake (it's best to use bakery cake cut from a large piece, rather than packaged cake-or for the ambitious, bake your own)
1 large can sliced peaches
fresh strawberries to decorate top

Directions: In an enamel pot mix and stir first 3 ingredients of Group 1. Heat over very low flame. Gradually add flour or potato starch. Slowly add second group of ingredients constantly mixing with a whisk. Adjust amount of ingredients to taste. Bring to a boil. Let cool.

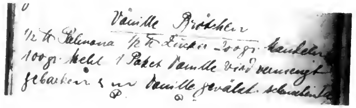
Slice sponge cake and place one layer into large glass bowl. Add peaches with some peach juice. Cover with wine sauce. Repeat with second layer and third, depending on size of bowl. The top should have wine sauce decorated with strawberries.

ILSE'S VANILLA COOKIES

1/2 tbsp. margarine or butter
1/2 lb. sugar
200 grams ground almonds (c. 7 oz.)
100 grams flour (c. 3 1/2 oz.)
1 package vanilla sugar

Mix above ingredients. Make at 350. Do not bake too long. After cookies have cooled, dip into vanilla sugar.

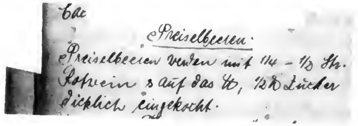
Passed down by Erna


Vanille Brötchen
1/2 ℔ Palmona 1/2 ℔ Zucker 200 gr. Mandeln
100 gr. Mehl 1 Paket Vanille wird vermengt
gebacken & in Vanille gewälzt.

ILSE'S CRANBERRY RELISH

1 bag fresh cranberries
1 1/2 cups red wine
1/2 lb. sugar

Cool over low flame while stirring. Cook until thick.


Preiselbeeren.
Preiselbeeren werden mit 1/4 - 1/2 Ltr.
Rotwein auf das ℔, 1/2 ℔ Zucker
dicklich eingekocht.

Passed down by Erna

HERTA'S CHEESECAKE

This is actually quite healthy as it is made with naturally low fat cheeses. It resembles a ricotta torte as much as a regular American cheesecake.

Dough, either muerberteig, or yeast dough, enough for 1 10 inch springform pan.

8 oz. farmer's cheese (approximately, the packages of farmer's cheese have about 7.5 oz.)
8 oz. cottage low-fat cheese
2-3 oz. cream cheese
8 oz. low-fat sour cream

1/2 cup sugar, or to taste
4 large eggs
Juice of 1/2 lemon
1 tsp. vanilla, or one package vanilla sugar
Small can of crushed pineapple, in own juice, drained slightly
1/4 cup white raisons
2 tbsp. flour (more if necessary to reach the correct consistency)
2 tbsp. melted butter

Put eggs into bowl of food processor, fitted with mixing blade. Add cheeses, sour cream and sugar, process only until mixed. Add lemon, pineapple and raisons, mix together very briefly, add at least 2 tbsp. of flour and more if needed.

Put into baking pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour. When firm, take out of oven and pour melted butter over the top of the cake.

Place cake under broiler to brown.

Watch it carefully, do not leave the room! It will take less than 1 minute or so till it is very light brown.

OMA'S KROKERLE

A chocolate spice cookie, especially good for Chanukah. Parve and therefore low in fat.

4 eggs
300 grams sugar
3/4 pound flour
1 1/2 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. clove
1 tbsp. cocoa
2 oz. liquor
3/4 pound chopped hazelnuts

Mix eggs and sugar until light and foamy. Sift together dry ingredients. Add dry ingredients to egg/sugar mixture. Add liquor and then nuts.

Drop by teaspoonfuls on greased cookie sheets. Bake 10-15 minutes until lightly browned.

Glaze while warm: 1/2 cup of confectioners sugar mixed with 1 1/2 tbsp. of lemon juice.

HERTA'S YEAST DOUGH FOR FRUIT OR CHEESE PIES

5 cups of flour
Make a well and put 2 packages of yeast and lukewarm water and sugar. Let stand until it rises.
4 tbsp. of sugar
4 jumbo eggs
1 cup of warm milk
Approximately 1/c oil
1 tsp. vanilla or 1 vanilla sugar
1/2 butter

Mix together when dough is soft, but doesn't stick to fingers, it's ready. Makes 4 portions for fruit pie or cheesecake.

HERTA'S CHOCOLATE GLAZE

Goes well with The Gesundheits Kuche.

In a medium saucepan:

2 cups water, heated to boiling, then turn off the heat.
Add to the water:
1 1/2 tsp. instant coffee
5 oz. semi-sweet chocolate, or chocolate chips
2 tbsp. sugar
1 tsp. vanilla, or 1 vanilla sugar

When thoroughly mixed, add:

1 1/2 tbsp. potato starch that you have dissolved in a small amount of cold water (my mom uses this for Passover).
Add 8 more oz. of water.

Return to medium heat, stirring constantly until thickened. When thick, add 1 tsp. Crisco, until the sauce is smooth and shiny. Use to glaze cake.

HERTA'S WINE CREAM

In a medium saucepan mix:

2 tbsp. potato starch
4 eggs, blended in one at a time, so they don't curdle.
6 tbsp. sugar, about 1/2 cup, or more to taste (you may need more or less depending on the wine you use).
1 tsp. vanilla
16 oz. white wine (my mother says 2 large glasses)
8 oz. water (1 large glass)
Juice or 1/2 lemon, or to taste.

Mix together and heat, stirring constantly. When sauce is boiling and thickened, it's ready.

You can also separate the eggs, beat the whites to snow and add the whites at the end. This gives a fluffier sauce, but one that separates sooner.

This sauce is wonderful with any Passover cake.

HERTA'S BERCHES

Makes 2 loaf pan sized or one large Challah.

2 lb. flour
1 package yeast
1/2 tsp. sugar
1/4 cup oil
1 cooked potato, or one serving of instant mashed potato
15 gm. salt
Approximately 2 cups warm water

Place flour in a large bowl. Make a well in the flour. Add yeast, mixed with 1/4 cup water and the sugar. When yeast is bubbling add oil and potato. Add the salt last.

Slowly add enough water to incorporate all of the flour mixture, kneading as you go. Knead some more. Let rise until doubled in bulk.

Shape into braids as for "regular" Challah, dividing the dough in half if you are putting them into loaf pans.

Place on cookie sheet, or if put them into the pans, which you should grease first. Sprinkle with poppy (for tradition) and sesame (for taste) seeds. Let rise again. Bake 30-40 minutes at 350, until golden brown.

HERTA'S GESUNDHEITS KUCHEN

(otherwise known as Marble Cake)

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

3 cups sifted flour
1 tbsp. baking powder
Pinch salt
2 cups sugar
4 Jumbo eggs, separated
1 1/2 sticks (3/8 lb.) butter
1 cup milk, warmed slightly
1 cup orange juice, warmed slightly
1 tsp. vanilla, or 1 package vanilla sugar

Sift first 4 ingredients together. Beat egg whites to snow, either in small bowl, or put in a bowl when ready. Cream butter until foamy. Add 1/2 dry ingredients, milk, rest of dry ingredients, OJ, egg yolks and vanilla. When mixed, fold in egg whites.

To make the above into a Marble Cake, make a chocolate batter by mixing together, in a small bowl:

3-4 tbsp. cocoa
2-3 tbsp. sugar
Juice of 1/2 lemon

Add approximately 1/3 of the batter to the above and mix together. Grease 2 loaf pans, or 1 large Kugelhopf mold. Pour batter in this order: 1/2 white, chocolate mix, other 1/2 of the white.

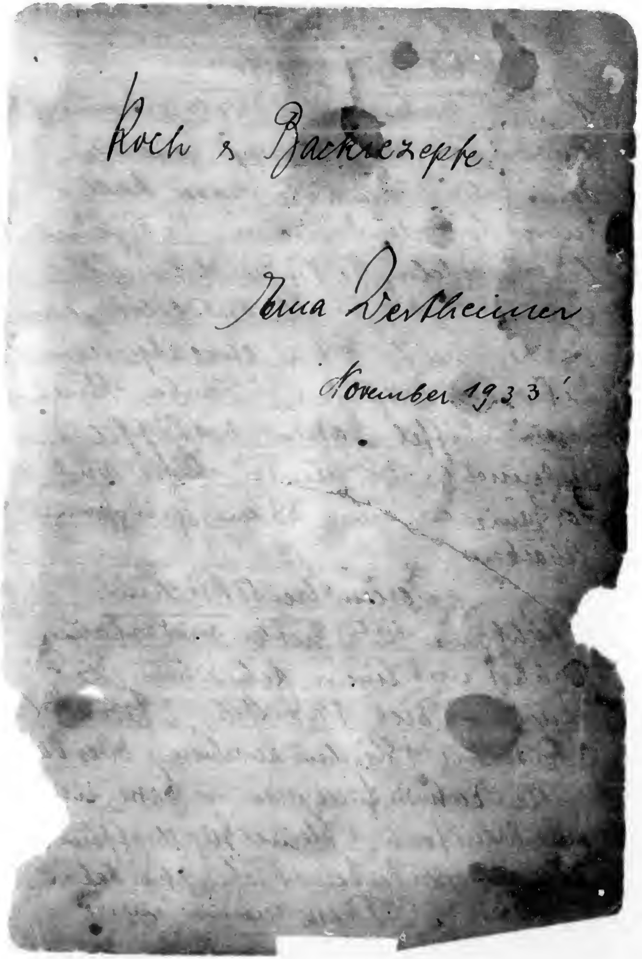
Pull a sharp knife through to marble.

Bake at 350 degrees for 50-60 minutes. It is done when a cake tester comes out clean. If you check on the cake, close the door very carefully, it falls easily.

Take out carefully–again the cake falls easily.

Take out of pan(s) only when cool so as to minimize the risk of falling.

Ilse's Recipe Book (Ilse owns a notebook of cooking and baking recipes compiled by Erna Wertheimer, November 1933)



Miles Apart, But Close at Heart

1965-2005

Left: *First Wertheimer Reunion at Mohonk, New York, June 1990*

A FEW REMARKS BY PIA AT OUR COUSINS' REUNION IN MOHONK, JUNE 8-10, 1990

AT THIS POINT IN THE CENTURY, the terms extended family and nuclear family are being bandied about in a coolly, analytical and clinical context. I am looking around this room and am not only reminded of the VERY extended Kippenheim-Wertheimer family configuration, but also somewhat saddened by some unavoidable changes in our family fabric since then. Although most of us here are certainly not filled with feelings of nostalgia for many aspects of our Kippenheim memories, we do feel a certain loss of our past "Zusammengehoerigkeit" in the development of our children, including my daughter Vivian, who grew up in a much too nuclear family situation in Los Angeles. Some of our offspring in Israel, Australia, Europe and the U.S. had very similar experiences, I am sure, in that they were at least also partially deprived of that sense of absolute belong to an UNCONDITIONAL family network.

These aunts, uncles and cousins took a very active part in our upbringing, felt proud of our good points and responsible for minimizing our faults. Both approaches were expressed with bold enthusiasm or unconcealed criticism, depending on what they felt was indicated! Even, if in our minds, all of that "free expression" smacked at times of unwelcome interference or indeed, meddling, that kind of sharing was a special luxury, believe me. We all belonged to everybody and I remember escaping quite often to Tante Fanny, who always made me feel welcome and enveloped with that special warmth, but who also didn't shy away from telling me that it was now "time to go home." She also understood my total addiction to music! The Valfers had the very first radio in Kippenheim and for me to be able to conjure up music at any time of the day and night with the help of this miracle-invention was the most wonderful thing on earth!

Tante Lina gave me my first piano lessons (occasionally doing her ironing simultaneously) and after I had worked my way through some Chopin Mazurkas, she told my parents that it was time to hand me over to a new teacher in Lahr, a Mrs. Bergman, who was not only excellent as a teacher, but pronouncedly anti-nazi, as it turned out later.

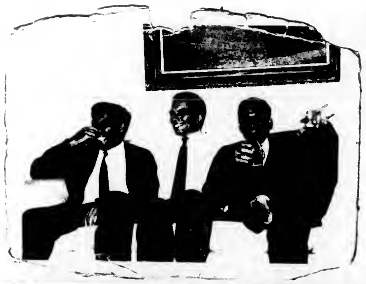
Hans used to spend a lot of time at Uncle Poldi's and Tante Toni's. He and Gunther were very close, inseparable actually and–besides that–, he loved the beautiful big house which contained their apartment. As you can see, our aesthetic passions manifested themselves quite early on! Shortly before their emigration, Uncle Poldi had me notate the liturgical music of the Kippenheim Synagogue services, most of which he sang with his really fine tenor voice and all of which sounded like Italian, or of course, German operatic arias. Gunther handed that manuscript back to me recently (via Hans and Barbara) and it flooded me with an enormous wave of nostalgia when I saw it again. By the way, they all sang beautifully, a legacy of Herschele, our grandfather, your great grandfather and even great-great grandfather. (My God....)

Many of us here remember Tante Jenny, at whose house in Laupheim we spent some lovely vacations. She was my special confidante always and especially after my parents had died, when we became even closer. We kept the Los Angeles-New York phone lines busy and had long talk sessions whenever I came back to the "big city."

Uncle Hermann once told me a marvelously funny anecdote, which, I think, should be shared with you. He was, of course, the eldest of the eight children and, come to think of it,–I think I'll tell this now the way I heard it, namely in the first person singular: "We had a nightly ritual and it went something like this: When we were all ready for bed in our nightshirts, I was allowed to sit on the 'throne' and all the other sat on their 'toepfle' (potties) in a semicircle. When they were all settled, I told them a story!"

Top: *"The three cousins": Stef, Gunther and Hans, late 50s*

Bottom: *"The three cousins": Stef, Gunther and Hans, Mohonk Reunion, 1990*



Erich, was my daily "bicycle-companion" on our way to the Ettenheim Gymnasium, which, as far as I was concerned, was a virtual torture palace, since I was completely isolated as the only Jewish child in my class...but that's another topic. Erich remains very, very special, even though we hardly have a chance to see each other for years at a time.

I am blessed with really wonderful, caring cousins whom I have never taken for granted. You see, that sense of belonging unconditionally to the family structure has remained indelible and has helped so much during some difficult times. My return to New York a few years ago has revived this sensation of living under this large protective family umbrella. It's comforting!

This weekend couldn't possibly give some of you who are just getting to know one another the same sense of togetherness that I am trying desperately to describe here, but some of us older ones want you, our children, to know that it is something you can count on for life. When we all get back to our homes, the spark of recognition which was ignited here, should be fanned occasionally by a letter, a phone call, a postcard, to keep us informed about each other. Believe me, it's worth it. We Wertheimers, whatever our names are by now, are a terrific clan!

TRIBUTE TO RUTH BERGMAN

I WANT TO THANK all of you for being here today to celebrate our mother's life and to say farewell to that life...well lived and well loved.

But more rightly I should say "lives" well and bravely lived.

Until very recently, she was an active participant in the life of New York...she took courses...in crafts and film. She was an eager movie and play goer and offered insightful criticisms (her basic complaint usually involved the films' length...they were generally 12 minutes too long, according to her and she would tell you which minutes were unnecessary). She loved going to museums.... She subscribed to several concert series over the years, she constantly listened to music at home, was up to date on current events, thanks to the *New York Times*, the *New Yorker* Magazine and *NY 1 News*.

She always finished a book...even if she hated it. We couldn't convince her it was all right to drop it and begin another.

She loved to travel. However, the first time was borne out of necessity. Our mother, the second youngest of six children, was the first to say, "I'm getting out of Germany."...In 1937, her oldest brother Karl took her to Paris, of which she said she was too frightened to remember and installed her on the Queen Mary where she spent six seasick days and nights. She then arrived at her new home... New York City. From a village to New York in 10 days. The courage that must have taken!

There are so many friends and relatives here who knew her as a school girl in Kippenheim...they formed the core of her attachments. These relationships continued here with so much love, affection and camaraderie.

Despite her terror at coming to New York, with a new language and terrain to navigate, the subways and elevators, she quickly found a job. She became a live-in nanny in Manhattan, so was able to earn a little money and have a roof over her head as she began her 2nd life.

Her third life began, through a relative, also newly emigrated, who had come from another small town in Germany, Laupheim.

Her aunt, Jenny Heuman, gave a party and invited not only her relatives, but some of the people who had come from her home town as well. I only know of one there...because he became our father. Rudolph Bergman.

According to the story...my father didn't get the name of the young woman he wanted to see again. He called Jenny after the party and explained he had bought two tickets for a concert and wanted to invite the woman he met at her house. Jenny, hearing the word "concert," immediately thought of her niece Pia, already an accomplished musician. He came to pick up his date only to find she was not the woman he was smitten with...sorry, Pia...but I'm sure you and he had a lovely time anyway.

He called Jenny, who quickly rectified the error and according to my mother, she asked my father to marry her six weeks later.

They waited a bit, but not too long and were married on July 9th, 1939.

I was born in blissful prematurity, unaware of the dramas that were unfolding for our families.

Our maternal grandparents, recognizing Hitler's threat too late, were sent to a camp in France...Sister Freya and her husband Ludwig and daughter Sonja were able to leave Germany, but the drama continued for them. The ship that was to bring them to freedom became a battering ram for bigotry...it was the St. Louis. When they got to this country, to New York, it was a great relief for my mother...and comfort to know her big sister Freya was a subway ride away. They spent many days together...as my mother helped her with her business and later, when they traveled together.

Many other relatives from both sides of the family made their way to freedom and into our lives. And they remain essential parts of ours. My aunt Deda, my father's sister, and Uncle Bruno lived with my parents before I was born and then got another apartment in our building in Corona, Queens. They know how loved they were by her and us. They've been rocks of endless support and wit and love for us all.

But let's go back to those early years. My father's parents and young son Walter got out of Germany and moved in with us. Our 4 room apartment was bulging at the seams...and at age 25 my mother was caretaker to a household of six people....this while still trying to get her parents a visa and transportation out of Vichy France. She saved the money for this by designing and sewing gloves and selling them....Her leather punch remains in the apartment. All my grade school teachers received leather gloves as Christmas presents.

When Andrew was born, my grandparents and uncle were dispatched to yet another apartment in our building, basically replicating an interior village...relatives, friends to visit without going out of doors.

My father was determined that they become Americans...and so I have no recollection of his speaking German in the house....I recall my mother doing so, but only with newly arrived relatives on the phone...and I suppose, when they came to visit...there were lots of Sunday coffee and cakes with family in those early years. She never lost her German accent, but her command of the language was never in doubt. My mother honed her humor to a razor sharp edge until almost the end.

She grew more confident in the kitchen. You all know of our mother's sensational cooking. Her matzo ball soup was the summa of holiday gatherings. Luckily, she taught Louise, how to make it and she didn't leave out any details (something we were positive she did with other recipes she wanted to retain supreme mastery of).

My father, being...well my father...didn't want my mother to work outside the home. But she was allowed to be a volunteer...she went to work at the Lighthouse Institute for the blind, first reading to adults, specifically a history professor. And later she worked with blind infants. And this began the next phase of her life...what I would call the active American phase...meeting friends that had not come from Germany and finding common ground.

My parents started to travel to Europe in the late 1960's. In 1971, they went for a two week trip to Italy....And on the day they were to return home, my father went into heart failure and died...he was 59 years old. My mother 55.

And so began yet another new life for my mother. I would think the most difficult and in many ways the best times...she was forced and forced herself to become a person on her own...to get a job that would engage her and provide income. She had no resume to speak of...other than her volunteerism at the Lighthouse.

She heard of a job as an assistant teacher at a school for profoundly retarded children and managed to schedule an interview.

Andrew had rekindled a romance with Louise Fay, daughter of dear friends from Ulm. Louise "suggested" ways to write her resume. She got the right advice and it changed her life.

She got the job. She received $75 a week for the most exhausting and demanding work any one could do. Soon, the school was taken over by the state and her salary was doubled! She was eligible for benefits and a pension. But she had to take college courses to become certified to teach...one I remember was in sign language. She was terrified...not having been a student for so long and never in this country...this was long before she became the film critic!

She passed each course and remained at the school until she turned 65. Her work was fulfilling and what was just as important, she found great friendships.

She then segued into working with emotionally disturbed children...both as a paid employee and volunteer.

But the most gratifying work she ever did was babysitting for Jake and Teddy...her grandchildren. And later when they didn't need or want tending, she took them on outings. They were her heart. She was so fiercely proud of the wonderful young men they've become. She gave full credit to their parents.... Louise, whom she loved as a second daughter. And she had a third daughter, our cousin and dear friend Andree, who's been so devoted to her throughout this illness.

And of course, she treasured her sister Freya, who at 93, continues to astound us with her resiliency.

Our mother was proud of all our accomplishments, but I think expected no less.

This past year was not one any of us would have wished for her...or anyone...hospitalizations for the first time other than giving birth to us and a minor procedure 35 years earlier. But this year, we saw a new person...from a frightened patient, to a determined woman eager to get better. From a woman who would never have questioned authority, to one who fought for her rights as a patient.

It was those characteristics of strength, of stubbornness, competition, of denying when something might be wrong, but being anxious about the problems nevertheless, that got us crazy more than once when we were younger...and me, until recently.... But it was that determination that kept her failing heart continue far longer than we thought possible. That failing heart was all heart.

That determination was so evident this past April. I decided to make Passover dinner at my apartment. She was already very weak and basically unable to walk more than a few steps and those steps with a walker. She was more wheelchair bound than not. Each day brought a new challenge and we had no idea whether or not she could make the trip to Manhattan. Aunt Deda and Uncle Bruno and Eva were to bring her. Deda insisted the car service clean the trunk of the car to accommodate the wheel chair...calling several times to make sure this was done. They came to fetch her...and there was my mother without the wheelchair, insistent on getting to the car and walking to my apartment with its long corridors on her own steam. She was exhausted by the effort, but she was so proud she did it...as were we all.

There are so many members of the family who were her close friends...and so many close friends who were family...she was so fortunate to have so many of them in her life...but I think a great deal of credit has to go to her for nurturing those relationships...offering fierce loyalty and companionship.

The past months were so difficult for her. But it did provide us the time to talk, to be sweet and gentle with each other, to appreciate each moment of her life.

Our mother always said she wanted to die in her sleep, suddenly...at home. Her last wish wasn't granted exactly. But death always comes suddenly, no matter how long the process.

The strength and resiliency of this family offers a template for the generations to come.

Adapted from tribute delivered by Doris Bergman at her mother Ruth Bergman's funeral on July 2, 2003.

FOR FREYA...FROM HER YOUNGEST SISTER, RUTH

What a great day to be able to celebrate with you, with your family, who loves and respects you.

I feel fortunate to be your sister and to be here to share this great day with you.

The road to get to this day was not always smooth...but going down memory lane, let me focus on positive and happy events.

My first baptism was an incident when you and Else wanted to teach me to jump over the Kippener Bach (river), but we didn't make it and the three of us didn't get to the other side and got drenched with our shabbos finery. I am sure you got blamed for this accident, bit it didn't mar our relationship. I just recall very little fighting with you and just looked for you as the protector, my big sister. It was [tough] when you left Kippenheim, after your marriage and moved north...a two-hour distance, to Malsch. Your wedding was a great happy event and I still have the silk scarf you brought back from Italy.

We saw each other a lot. When you were about to give birth to Sonja I was sent to Malsch to be with you. The happy event was celebrated by all of us...and you didn't mind being in the hospital...you adored your gynecologist, Dr. Maier.

The good years were short and the dark years followed. I don't want to dwell. I remember being so happy to see you, Luma and Sonja at the pier on your arrival in New York. We couldn't see each other at those times too often, because the Bronx and Queens seemed very far by subway. So the phone was our connection. But we were always close and in touch.

As time moved on, we took our first trip together...a train ride to Chicago...in 1943. You didn't sleep a wink because the train was full of soldiers and you were not comfortable. You watched over me.

We felt very enterprising making this trip...leaving our husbands to fend for themselves...far from liberated women!

When we took our next trip to England together, it was to attend Fay's wedding. We were already much more sophisticated. We stayed in a bed and breakfast in Manchester. Our room was heated by gas that had a meter you had to feed with money. When we ran out of shillings we drank cognac in bed to keep warm and laughed ourselves silly.

Back in New York again, you built up a very good business and did it with the same dignity and honesty as you conducted your whole life.

Each Monday was my day to be your assistant buyer in the garment center. I enjoyed it and was so happy to be able to be of help to you.

After a couple of years, after my life too had changed, we decided to take trips to Europe together, which we did every summer and enjoyed very much. We visited the Scandinavian countries, Portugal, Madeira, Prague, Budapest, Vienna, Israel, Yugoslavia and a lot of trips to England.

Then after we got a bit older, we took our yearly trips to Switzerland, which were nice, but not as exciting. But that happens when you get to be a bit more mature!

I think all along we had and have some very good times together and most of all, there is an unconditional love and respect we have for each other.

May you have many more years of good health and joy with your family and friends.

I love you sisterlein. Yours.

Ruth Bergman wrote the preceding tribute for her sister Freya Maier honoring her on her 90th Birthday. It speaks volumes about the strengths of our family...the ability to survive and thrive. I have not edited it.

Doris Bergman

THIS PAGE

Top Right: *Ruth Bergman and Louise Bergman, October 1976*

Top Left: *Doris, Ruth, Ted, Andrew, Louise, Jake at Ruth's 80th birthday*

Middle: *Yvette, Hans, Barbara*

Middle Right: *Gertrude and Cole*

Bottom Right: *Erich's 85th Birthday;*
Top row: Eran and Lilach with Itamar; Maayan; Anat; Erich; Ofri; Ruth
Bottom row: Jonathan; Daniel; Calanit with Idan; Oded with Noa

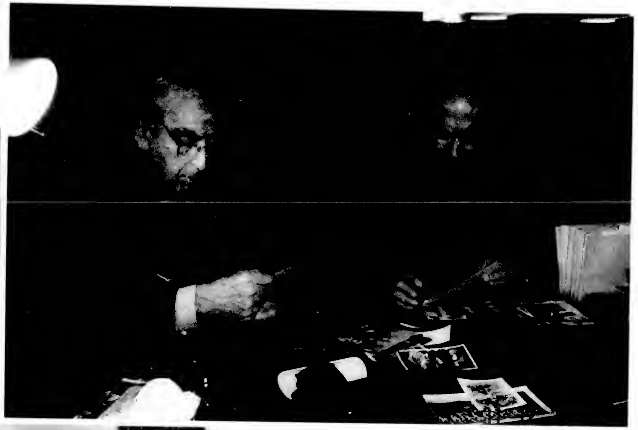
Bottom Left: *Erich at his 85th birthday*

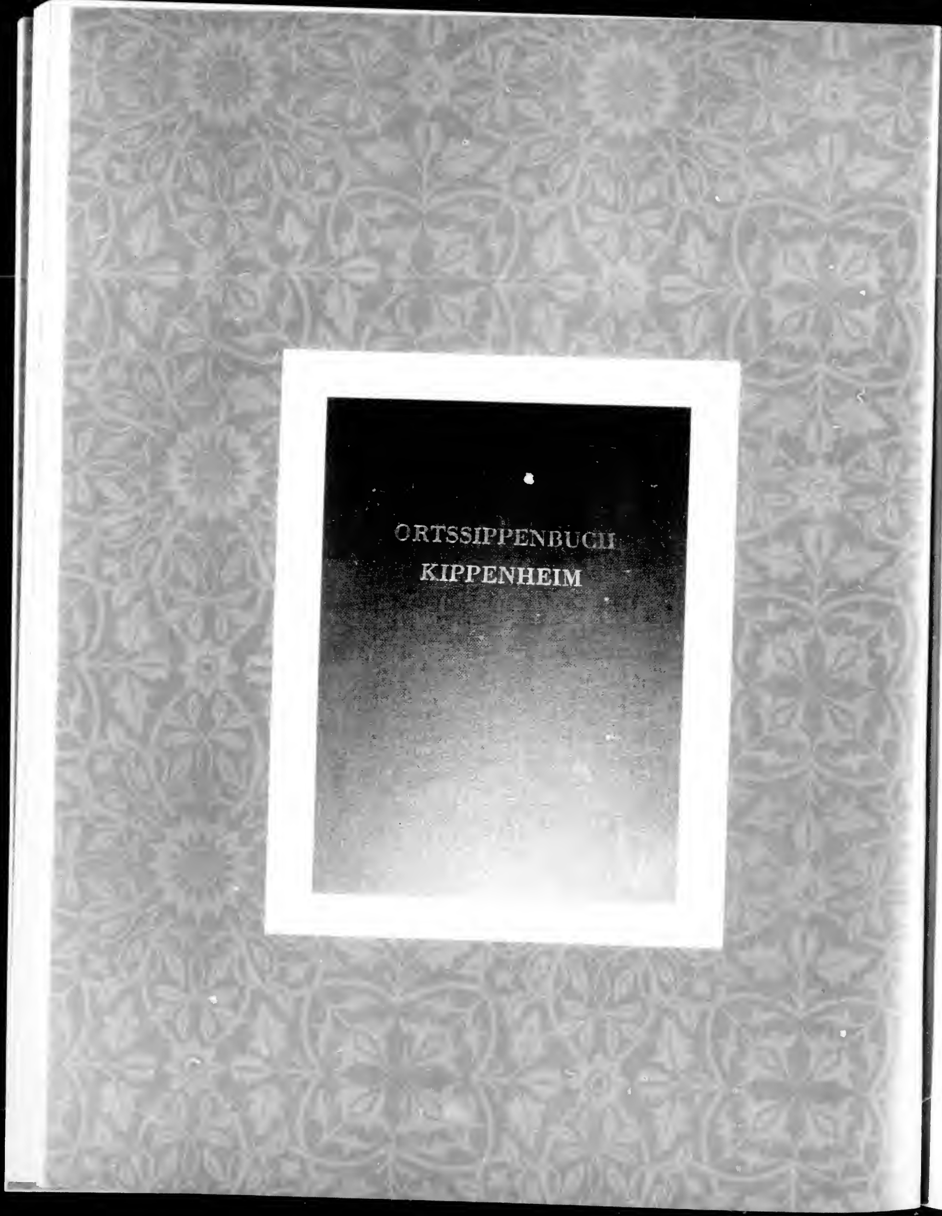
OPPOSITE PAGE

Top Left: *Pamela Wade with granddaughter Ta'ir, 2005. Pamela lives in Israel and is from the Valfer Family.*

Top Right: *Hans and Stef looking through old photos in Israel, in December 2004*

Bottom: *Gertrude Valfer, Steve Valfer, Cole Valfer, Beverly Valfer, Julia Swirsky, Reid Valfer, Blake Valfer, Dana Valfer and Regan Valfer*





Revisiting the Past, Shaping the Future

Left: *Book cover from Ortssippenbuch Kippenheim*

Holocaust Memorial in Berlin

Bottom Right: *Gerard and Evelyne Dreyfus in front of the window where their family's documents and photos are exhibited.*

LETTER ABOUT BERLIN

I just came back from Berlin where my brother and I were invited for the inauguration of the Memorial for the murdered Jews in Europe. An amazing building just in the historical middle of Berlin with more than 2700 stones like gravestones. No Berliner and no tourist will be able to ignore this monument and to forget what happened here on this place exactly where the final solution was decided. Underground of this very large monument there is a memorial center and it was very, very emotional to see the permanent exposure they did [of] 15 families from 15 different countries of Europe. One of these families is mine and if you go to visit Berlin you will find there the photos of my grand-parents with especially photos [of] my grand father Leopold and his daughter Alice (he died in Theresin and I learned, through this exposure–I didn't know before–that Alice was deported in 1943 to Auschwitz where she died immediately on her arrival after 2 years hard working for Siemens). During all the ceremonies I thought: if my father could see this.... A very special trip to Berlin. If you go there, don't miss this Memorial.

Evelyne Dreyfus

MARCH OF THE LIVING

Margaret and I have returned from The March of the Living trip to Auschwitz and two other Holocaust extermination camps. Joining us from the Nassau County Holocaust Center were Holocaust survivor Gloria Glantz, her son Craig and Holocaust survivors Eddie and Judy Weinstein. Also in Poland for the March of the Living were 21,000 others–many students and Holocaust survivors from throughout the United States, Israel and over 65 other countries. This was the first time Holocaust survivors and other adults were invited for this annual march of teenagers. The inclusion of adults was inspired as a commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the liberation of the Holocaust camps.

We heard detailed survivor testimony about their horrific experiences, we saw crematoriums, gas chambers and many graves. On the other hand we were exhilarated by being among thousands of youth carrying Israeli flags and singing songs in Hebrew.

This trip also provided a view of Jewish life in Europe prior to the Holocaust. We visited old Jewish quarters in Warsaw and Krakow. We saw abandoned synagogues and walked through old cemeteries where great rabbis and every-day Jews were buried.

We heard historical talks from our tour leader, Dr. Bill Shulman, President of the Association of Holocaust Organizations, from our Israeli-born bus tour guide and from our Polish bus guide. We were also blessed with testimony from survivors throughout the week.

Upon arrival in Poland, we boarded our bus and immediately drove to Treblinka, a death camp where over 800,000 people, primarily Jews, were exterminated during 1941-1942. This was an awesome sight. One could feel the death hidden by the surrounding forest. We heard the vivid testimony from survivor Eddie Weinstein, who was at Treblinka for seventeen days before he escaped. We all benefited from Eddie's testimony that day. For the remainder of the trip I found myself often in conversation with Eddie, hearing about his time doing forced labor, his seventeen months being hidden by the owner of a fish hatchery, his time in the Polish Army and his journey post liberation.

Later that day we stopped at the site of the Warsaw ghetto and heard about the ghetto uprising. We visited a standing ghetto wall and memorials to the uprising. We asked about the current Jewish population in Warsaw and were saddened to hear that less than 300 Jews live there today. Although census numbers are not available, it is believed between 5,000 and 10,000 Jews live in Poland.

The second morning after minimal sleep, we went to the Warsaw train station for the four hour ride to Auschwitz. On the platform our group stood along with hundreds and hundreds of other people from around the world, many young, carrying flags from their country and also holding Israeli flags. Adjacent to us was a group from Ecuador and next to them Canadian teenagers. The first train pulled in, jammed with smiling teenagers. When the train stopped the teens came to the window and put out a sign saying "EITZ HAYIM MOSCOW." The Ecuadorian group began singing in Hebrew and we all joined in, including the Russian teens on the train. We were all overcome with emotion.

Margaret and I rode on the train to Auschwitz with Gloria and Craig. Gloria shared her thoughts about seeing the large number of energized people, especially the young. It was truly wonderful to see the thousands of young people from around the world.

We marched into Auschwitz and hours later heard inspirational presentations by former Israeli Chief Rabbi Meir Lau, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Nobel Peace Prize winner and Auschwitz survivor Elie Wiesel.

We then went to Krakow.

On day 3, we returned to Auschwitz-Birkenau. We walked throughout the camp for hours. We saw a

gas chamber, barracks and a prison, all the time listening to survivor testimony.

Over the next three days, our trip included a lengthy stop at the Majdonek extermination camp where the gas chamber, crematorium and barracks all stand. We went through each, hearing about the operation of the camp and thinking about the people coming to the camp, going through selection and for the few who were allowed to live, to hear about life at the camp.

Among our other stops, we visited the recently opened Auschwitz Jewish Center, the Galicia Jewish Heritage Museum in Krakow, an old large Jewish cemetery in Warsaw and the Jewish Heritage Institute.

This trip was physically and emotionally challenging. Often I felt like I was on an "emotional roller coaster." Although I have read many books about the Holocaust and recently heard many survivors' testimony at our Holocaust Center, being in Poland at the sites brought out a much more intense feeling. Margaret and I spoke at length about our feelings at dinner after the two day visit to Auschwitz. We were drained from everything we saw those first three days. I expressed my desire to further my involvement at the Nassau County Holocaust Center to memorialize this era and help prevent anti-Semitism and racism from happening again. My work ahead will be challenging, but this week has provided tremendous stimulation.

I have always been proud to be a first generation American whose Jewish parents escaped from Germany. This trip reinforced how special it is to be a second generation Holocaust survivor and the importance of teaching "the lessons of the Holocaust."

Letter from Howard Maier, Freya's and Rita's nephew on the Maier side

ORTSSIPPENBUCH KIPPENHEIM

On a visit to Kippenheim in September, 2004, Anne and I visited the synagogue that has been restored from near oblivion.

Looking for the Valfer residence, where my grandmother grew up, I met a family living next door to the synagogue. At first, they were wary of me–I had the wrong address and thought their home had once belonged to our family; they probably thought I wanted to reclaim the property. (It didn't help matters that they spoke not a word of English and Anne's German was somewhat rusty.) But once we established that the Valfers had, in fact, lived across the street, they warmed up to us.

The gentleman of the house, looking something like a young boy revealing his stash of candy, indicated that he had something important to show us. On his living-room table, he plopped down a huge book with but two words on the front: Ortssippenbuch Kippenheim.

Listing birth dates, towns of origin, wedding dates, children's names and birthdays and even departure information (including city of arrival), the book chronicles the history of Kippenheim's residents–going back 600 years or more. I enthusiastically looked up the first names that came to mind: Wertheimer, Valfer, Maier. (Arthur and Ludwig Maier, though natives of Malsch, earned spots in the book by virtue of marrying Kippenheimers.) The Ortssippenbuch Kippenheim is not exactly a family tree, but I still found it fascinating. I did not expect this book, printed in a tiny German town, to tell me that Erich Valfer left Germany on June 16, 1938 and then settled in Haifa by way of Italy.

The book's thoroughness in some matters only highlights Germany's silence in others: Max Valfer, the book says, was deported to Gurs in 1940, never to return. No other information is provided. Perhaps even more alarming is the book's description of Fanny Valfer (neé Wertheimer): According to the book, she followed four of her children to New York in 1940. In fact, she perished with Max.

According to the family I met, the only copies of the Ortssippenbuch Kippenheim belong to residents of the town. I doubt there's much to be gained by trying to obtain a copy. But if you find yourself in Kippenheim, you may want to ask to see it–indelible proof that their history is ours, too.

David McCarthy

Left: *Memorials in the form of stones are being installed by artist Gunther Dennig in many communities throughout Germany. The stones with inscriptions identifying the Jewish persons are placed in front of houses they formerly occupied. The stones were installed in early 2005.*

Stolpersteine in Kippenheim

Auf Initiative unseres Vorstandsmitglieds Michael Nathanson beschloss der Kippenheimer Gemeinderat die Aktion Stolpersteine des Kölner Künstlers Gunther Demnig aufzugreifen. Am 13. Januar wurden die ersten Stolpersteine für sechs Opfer der Shoa im Gehweg vor ihren früheren Wohnsitzen verlegt.

Salomon Auerbacher (1888 Kippenheim - 1942 Auschwitz) und Gerda Auerbacher (1895 Kippenheim - 1942 Auschwitz)

Salomon Auerbacher führte einen gut gehenden Gemischtwarenhandel, der bis 1938 existierte. Am 22. Oktober 1940 wurden das Ehepaar zusammen mit dem Vater von Gerda Auerbacher, Josef Ludwig Auerbacher (1863 Kippenheim - 1940 Gurs) nach Gurs verschleppt. Während Josef Ludwig Auerbacher noch 1940 im Lager verstarb wurden Salomon und Gerda Auerbacher von Gurs aus in das Todeslager Auschwitz deportiert.

Max Valfer (1880 Diersburg - 1942 Auschwitz) und Fanny Valfer (1886 Kippenheim –1942 Auschwitz)

Max Valfer führte bis 1938 einen Tabakwarengroßhandel. Er wurde mit seiner Ehefrau Fanny am 22 Oktober 1940 nach Gurs deportiert. Von dort mussten Fanny und Max Valfer in das Außenlager Les Milles überwechseln. Im Rahmen der Deportation der in Frankreich lebenden Juden nach Auschwitz wurden sie in das Sammallager Drancy gebracht. Ihr Transport (Nr .18) verließ am 19. August 1942 dieses Lager in Richtung Auschwitz, wo sie vermutlich sofort am Ankunftstag ermordet wurden.

Samuel Wertheimer (1874 Kippenheim -1942 Maly Trostinec) und Sophie Wertheimer (1877 Emmendingen - 1942 Maly Trostinec)

Samuel Wertheimer betrieb eine kleine Metzgerei in der Oberen Hauptstr. 68, die jüdische und christliche Kunden belieferte. 1938 verkaufte er die Metzgerei und zog mit seiner Ehefrau Sophie nach Stuttgart. Das Ehepaar verließ Stuttgart und zog in die Gemeinde Oberdorf bei Aalen. Von hier aus erfolgte am 22. August 1942 der Abtransport von Samuel und Sophie Wertheimer nach Theresienstadt (Transport XIII/1 693). Vermutlich wurden sie von dort am 26. September 1942 nach Maly Trostinec deportiert. Das Oberlandesgericht Stuttgart stellte für beide den 31. Oktober 1943 als Todeszeitpunkt fest.

OPENING OF THE OLD KIPPENHEIM SYNAGOGUE

A short drive from Basel, direction Karlsruhe, and you are in the German countryside where one typical, little village pretty much resembles another. Then suddenly, on the main street of Kippenheim, one of the many small villages in the region, one is surprised to discover a large Neo-Gothic Synagogue, a reminder of the important role once played by a flourishing Jewish community in this rural area. The story of Kippenheim and its Jews is quite exceptional. We were often reminded of that fact during the Visitors' Week for the former Jewish citizens of Kippenheim who were recently invited by Mayor Willi Mathis of Kippenheim to attend the opening ceremonies of the newly renovated Synagogue, originally built in 1852.

When and why did Jews actually settle in Kippenheim? Traces of the first Jewish Kippenheimers are found in 1654, and they were probably cattle dealers. In 1750 a first synagogue was erected by the seven existing Jewish families, and by the end of the century, Kippenheim counted 63 Jews. Shortly thereafter, a Jewish cemetery was established in the neighboring village of Schmieheim, and it still stands today as a fascinating reminder of the Jewish past in Germany. To notice the same family names (Durlacher, Wertheimer, Weil, Auerbacher, Wachenheimer) on many of the old tombstones–in Hebrew before the Jews were emancipated in 1807-09, and also in Roman letters thereafter–is testimony to the presence of Jews in Kippenheim and the sur-

THIS PAGE

Inside Synagogue, 2004

OPPOSITE PAGE

Front of Synagogue, 2004

rounding area for over four hundred years. And in the cemetery, a memorial honoring the Jewish soldiers who died fighting on the German side during the First World War is further evidence how fully German the Jews considered themselves.

With the rise of Hitler in 1933, Kippenheim's 144 Jews began to feel threatened by the emergence of anti-Semitism and many left for America and Israel. Unfortunately not all Kippenheimer Jews emigrated, and in November 1938, the Synagogue was desecrated and partially burnt during the "Reichskristallnacht." On October 22, 1940, the remaining 31 Kippenheim Jews were deported to Gurs and then to Auschwitz. Every year, this date is commemorated by today's Kippenheim community.

After the war, the dilapidated Synagogue was sold and used as a warehouse storing agricultural goods. The interior was radically changed and it no longer resembled a house of worship. In 1983 the Kippenheim town council purchased the Synagogue and renovated the exterior despite the fact that there were no longer any Jews in the village. Years later, concerned citizens of Kippenheim decided to renovate the interior of the once Moorish synagogue so that some of its glorious past would be recognizable. The outlines of where the "bima" once stood, together with the wanton damage done in 1938 are still visible and serve as a reminder that the past must not be forgotten. A plaque listing all the Kippenheimer Jews murdered by the Nazis is prominent on one of the walls of the Synagogue.

The opening of the Old Kippenheim Synagogue took place on September 7, 2003. For the first time in 65 years, Kaddish was intoned and Yahrzeit candles were lit in the old Synagogue by those remaining former Jewish citizens of Kippenheim who attended the dedication ceremony. The Synagogue will remain as a living memorial and serve as a learning and cultural center.

Barbara Wertheimer

End of Wertheimer Family Trees Collection